

## Cambridge Military Scrapbook 1939-1945

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies about the

### Second World War in Cambridge

reported in Cambridge Newspapers

CAMBRIDGE DAILY NEWS, Friday, January 31, 1941.

**BOMBS NEXT DOOR — BUT SHE CARRIES ON!**



Bombs dropped by a "tip and run" raider in an East Anglian town yesterday afternoon, fell between two houses and caused local damage. Windows were also broken in the streets around. These pictures show scenes where the bombs fell. A housewife is calmly brushing from her window debris blown from the house next door, and Civil Defence workers are taking refreshment after their duties have been completed. It was learned to-day that the fatal casualties were only two, and not three, as was first believed.

summarised by

Mike Petty

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These stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily News or Cambridge Independent Press during the War when censorship was in force and news was restricted.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770. They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.

I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in touch .

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at [bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection)

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

*There have been numerous books published about Cambridge during the Second World War.*

*Two of the most important, with information that supplements these snippets are*

*'Air Raid! The enemy air offensive against East Anglia 1939-1945' by Michael J.F. Bowyer. Patrick Stephens. 1986. ISBN 0-85059-685-8*

*'Cambridge at war: the diary of Jack Overhill 1939-1945, edited by Peter Searby. Cambridgeshire Records Society. 2010 ISBN 978-0-904323-221-1*

Cambridge Military Scrapbook 1939 -1945 compiled by Mike Petty

## **1939**

### **1939 January**

1939 01 21

Evacuation scheme - Mayor sends letter to each home – 39 01 21 TT

1939 01 28

ARP on agenda – 39 01 28 TT

### **1939 February**

1939 02 07

Men and women members of the International Brigade, who have seen service in Spain fighting for the Government, spoke at the Guildhall which was almost filled to capacity. The meeting was called by the Cambridge Co-ordinating Committee for Spanish Relief. In Spain rickets was becoming rife, hunger dropsy was beginning to appear and anaemia was present. Between 300 and 400 people were dying from actual starvation in Madrid every day. For the first time in history in America surplus food was not being destroyed but was being sent to Spain. 39 02 07

1939 02 07a

The Auxiliary Fire Service wound up their training at Cherry Hinton Hall with a demonstration using specially made incendiary bombs. Two were used to set fire to a house of boxes kindly donated by local tradesmen which was tackled using an ordinary hand-pump with a spray jet. Many important lessons were learned. The bombs give off intense heat and coloured glasses must be worn by the fireman to protect his eyes. The application of water increases the ferocity of the flames. 39 02 07a

### **1939 March**

1939 03 03

Cambridge is to raise a 600 bed Military Hospital (Territorial) with an establishment of 23 officers, 50 nursing sisters and 145 other ranks. Steps are being taken to provide temporary accommodation for officers and social purposes pending the erection of permanent buildings. This new unit replaces the original 1st Eastern General raised in Cambridge and the Isle of Ely in 1908. After the war, the hospital was disbanded, but in 1938 it was reconstituted under the command of Lt.-Col. C. H. Budd. M.C. T.D. 39 03 03 CIPof

1939 03 03

Cambridge A.R.P. trenches: permanent A.R.P. trenches are taking shape on Midsummer Common between Auckland Road and Brunswick School – photos – 113.70

1939 03 22

The Basque Children's Hostel is still in need of support. The children came over in 1937 and moved to the present hostel in 1938. The conquest of the greater part of Spain by Franco and his Fascist friends meant their parents were scattered and it was dangerous for them to return. Several businesses had given valuable support including Chivers and Pordage. It was a very happy home. There had been no bullying or dishonesty. Three of the boys were at garages being trained as motor mechanics, one girl was a dressmaker, another a laboratory assistant 39 03 22a

1939 03 28

Cambridge members of the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence are being trained as ambulance and car drivers. A feature of the classes is tuition in driving in the dark in gas masks and without lights and in changing wheels, fuses etc under the same conditions. This instruction is being given by Mr North of Messrs Marshall's, Jesus Lane. Women wishing to enrol for this important National Service should apply to the W.V.S., Old Post Office, St Andrew's Street - 39 03 28

1939 03 29

Defence Cadet Corps Squadron formed – 39 03 29 & a

1939 03 30

The A.R.P. First Aid post at Auckland Road will be staffed by a doctor and trained nurse and give more extensive first-aid. Two practices have already taken place. A sham air raid was enacted last night with casualties brought in by ambulance and unloaded by stretcher bearers. Nurses and orderlies under the direction of Dr Walker, dealt with them. Realism was added by squibs which were let off and red paint was used to give the impression of real wounds. 39 03 30 & a

## **1939 April**

1939 04 06

St Regis luxury flats, Chesterton Road. A unique feature is the provision of a large air raid shelter built under the garages. It has a concrete roof and will be perfectly safe against all but a direct hit by a heavy bomb. Provision has been made for gas-proofing it in case of emergency. 39 04 06a

1939 04 17

The old First Eastern General Hospital had been born again last year, but it had a short life and died in the September crisis. Then the Cabinet decided to form eight Territorial General Hospitals and it was revived as the "2nd (1st Eastern) General Hospital". There are 23 officers and 145 other ranks, a matron and nurses and it will have the same number of beds, about 600. Old Comrades can assist training recruits in the initial stages, they were told at their annual dinner 39 04 17

1939 04 18

Tank stimulates recruiting; small Carrier tank manoeuvres watched by Territorial C>O> F.N. Drake-Digby – pic – 113.116

1939 04 19

Sir Will Spens, Master of Corpus Christi College, has been appointed Commissioner for the Eastern Region under the Civil Defence Scheme, with Lord Eltisley as his deputy to direct Civil Defence on

behalf of the Government in war-time from 12 cities and towns throughout Great Britain for three years as from April 1. 39 04 19, 39 04 21 CIPof

1939 04 19

British Portland Cement has constructed an emergency headquarters at the disused Saxon Cement Works in Coldham's Lane. Built by William Sindall it includes a complete set of offices with bombproof shelters and all A.R.P. necessities. There are two decontamination rooms with gas proof windows and splinter-proof steel shutters. Seven bomb-proof dugouts covered with eight inches of reinforced ferro-concrete and two feet of earth can each accommodate 30 people. It has an air-filtration plant, central heating and electricity supplied from an accumulator driven by a crude oil engine 39 04 19b & c

1939 04 19

National service and ARP: the young man's job: prepare today. How you can help yourself – articles explaining situation – 39 04 19d & f

1939 04 19

Lavender & Bateman for air raid shelters of all kinds – advertisement – 39 04 19e

1939 04 19

Air raid precautions. Every house should have a refuge room. A cellar or basement is the best. The stronger the walls, floor or ceiling the better. If possible the room should be without windows. If this is impossible steps can be taken to lessen the danger of the windows being blown in by blast and so perhaps allow the entry of gas-laden air. Sandbags or boxes filled with earth should be placed outside them. Otherwise trenches can be dug seven foot deep with at least two entrances and covered with corrugated iron topped with two feet of earth. Keep these pages for future reference – 39 04 19 e,f, g, h

1939 04 22

An appeal was made for townspeople to join the army of National Service. Cambridge requires 540 air wardens, 189 special constables and 90 men for the auxiliary fire service. Women could join the Land Army, nursing or first-aid services or help with the evacuation of children. The world is in the hands of certain irresponsible and uncontrolled men. Vast multitudes had lined the streets of Berlin to cheer their leader, the man who had massacred the liberties of two neighbouring people. We need to be ready 39 04 22

1939 04 29

In the event of war there would be several hundred thousand casualties in the first few weeks. Cambridge was tolerably safe from air raids but patients would be transferred to Addenbrooke's Hospital from other areas. But there was a shortage of nurses. A nurse could do a great deal for a casualty with no hospital, but a hospital could do nothing for a casualty without a doctor and a nurse – 39 04 29 & a

## **1939 May**

1939 05 01

It is unlikely that the Water Company's source of supply, the Fleam Dyke pumping station, would be chosen as a target by enemy bombers or that a direct could put both duplicate sets of machinery out of action. However the disused Fulbourn pumping station has been completely reconditioned as a precaution. But if Cambridge was raided it is almost inevitable that water mains would sustain

considerable damage the Manager said. The Company supplied water to 81,000 people but this may well be increased to over 110,000 by evacuations from London, 39 05 01 & a

1939 05 03

If war came some kind of press censorship would be inevitable, the Home Secretary told the Newspaper Society dinner. Retiring President, Captain A.C. Taylor, Managing Director of the CDN, said the provincial newspaper editor was very discrete and trustworthy but must make a true and faithful record of events as they take place. Only a free Press, unfettered by Government interference, can be looked upon as a true Press, and a faithful record of everyday affairs 39 05 03b

1939 05 05

Air raid trenches would not protect people in event of air raid. Seven minutes would elapse after the warning before the planes were here. During that time head wardens had to get their wardens out of bed and they, in turn, had to get people out of their beds into the trenches. Under this scheme 30,000 people would be turned out into the darkened streets where there might be a lot of transport. Instead steel shelters should be provided, councillors were told. Cambridge was a safe place and trenches were practically no defence against aerial bombing. And they were narrow: young men will be touching knees with girls (Laughter) 39 05 05 & a ,39 05 11 & a

1939 05 06

Defence measures - trenches, ambulances etc 39 05 06 TT

1939 05 13

Ronald Searle cartoon having joined Royal Engineers – 39 05 13a

1939 05 18

Committee discuss ARP trenches - “might waste -£50,000” – 39 05 18 TT

1939 05 24

2,500 Undergraduates packed Churchill Meeting in Corn Exchange, voted to gladly accept the measure of conscription involved in the Military Training Bill. Churchill was occasionally interrupted by cheers, ironic laughter, and cries but generally speaking, the meeting passed off quietly. What violence there was occurred outside. Long before the meeting was due to start a queue formed up outside, and some of those unable to get in attempted to force an entrance. A rush was made on the west door and in the course of the melee, a policeman lost his helmet. Other officers repelled attempts to enter by the main door. A crowd of undergraduates several hundred strong remained in Corn Exchange Street until a proctor ordered them to disperse. 39 05 24a, 39 05 26 CIPof [7.7], 113.83

1939 05 26

Cambridgeshire Regiment raised a second battalion. From now onwards, those applying will be placed on a waiting list. 39 05 26 CIPof

## **1939 June**

1939 06 03

Under the Military Training Act, 1939, the names of some 1,200 undergraduates and 800 other men aged 21 are being registered at the Senate House and the Central School. Medical examinations will begin next week and men allocated into four grades, one being unfit for any degree of service. The others will then be interviewed by the War Office to determine their most appropriate allocation to the Forces. They are expected to be conscripted in Cambridge 39 06 03

1939 06 29

Emergency plans envisage that as London will probably be attacked before Cambridge the County Infirmary should provide for 250 casualties from Central London. The Ministry would provide bedding and equipment but mattresses and pillows would be supplied as cases only, to be filled as required. It would be up-graded with an operating theatre and X-ray rooms, emergency lighting and better sanitary conveniences. But in the event of local casualties the London cases would be transferred to other hospitals 39 06 29

## **1939 July**

1939 07 08

During the forthcoming 'Black Out' test there will be something like a thousand people taking part. There will be no general alarm but air raid signals will be transmitted by telephone to the various centres. You will be relieved to know that no houses are to be set on fire (!) but a red lamp and smoking candle will indicate that an outbreak of fire has occurred and wardens finding them will call the brigade. There will also be casualties of various kinds in the streets with labels on them to signify they are 'injured'. Streets lights will be extinguished and motorists asked to drive with sidelights. 39 07 08

1939 07 10

Perse School Scout Troop demonstrated the way they can assist in an emergency. Into the arena strolled a group of passers-by, then came the wail of a siren leading to a mad rush for an ARP shelter. Exploding rockets gave a hint of realism to the scene. Scouts ran to various 'casualties' and treated their 'wounds'. Afterwards the wounded were carried on emergency stretchers made of Scouts' staves placed through the arms of overcoats and mackintoshes. The wounded took great care to make themselves comfortable on this rather uncomfortable mode of transport. 39 07 10

1939 07 14

An exercise demonstrated war-time black-out conditions in Cambridge. Streets lamps were turned out, speed limit signs extinguished and red hurricane lamps were placed on traffic islands. The external lights on police boxes were also put out and the bulbs removed as an additional precaution. Most vehicles drove slowly with only side and rear lights and cars using head-lights were stopped. Lights at the railway station were left on but carriage blinds on the 11.55 from London were drawn at Bishop's Stortford 39 07 14

1939 07 14

The A.R.P. exercise envisaged that an incendiary bomb had fallen on the Tivoli Cinema and no water was available from the hydrant. Within a few minutes a van-drawn Scammel pump pulled up outside. Firemen transported the pump to the riverside from which a hose was laid to a portable canvas dam near the burning building. There were four casualties – presumably usherettes, two suffering serious burns. Eighteen lorries were used as ambulances with an illuminated red cross on the front. 37 07 14a

1939 07 15

Although a considerable number of Militiamen from Cambridge travelled to their depots the scene at Cambridge railway station was little different from a normal Saturday. I expected to see goodbye and good luck messages being given to the first of the young men who are to give the next six months to the service of their country. But there were no martial strains to cheer them on their way. The explanation is that the men were free to travel as they wished and by travelling in small parties they avoided any publicity – and any reporters 39 07 15a

1939 07 21

British Legion veterans & Territorials took part in the huge rally on Jesus Green. Line upon line they stood in front of the platform from which the service, which formed part of the rally, was conducted, medals gleaming on every breast. To one side of the serried ranks was a space reserved for the standards. Twenty thousand spectators were in attendance. A far wider audience heard the service, for it was broadcast. A ceremonial march that preceded the service provided an impressive spectacle. An address was given by Admiral of the Fleet the Rt Hon. Lord Chatfield, Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence. 39 07 21 CIPof

## **1939 August**

1939 08 04

Big Black-Out Test.—Cambridgeshire part of a gigantic black-out test. Twenty-five counties, in which the County and City of London will be included, will be in complete darkness—or as near to it as possible—on the night of August 9-10. More than half of England (from the Isle of Wight up to Lincolnshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire) will be included in the biggest black-out test ever attempted. In all places, except the London region, the test will start at midnight. Request that there shall not be any light to interfere what is aimed at—a 100 per cent, black-out. R.A.F. observers will be flying to report on the results of the great darkness, which is to approach as near to war conditions as possible. 39 08 04 CIPof

1939 08 19

Tribunal to consider conscientious objectors – 38 09 19 TT

1939 08 24

Should lighting regulations be brought into force motor car side and rear lamps must have electric light bulbs not exceeding seven watts, acetylene lamp burners must not consume more than 14 litres per hour and in oil lamps only one burner must be used. Light may be emitted only through a single aperture facing to the front or rear of the car of not more than two inch diameter. Front glasses must be obscured with white tissue paper or paint. Head lamps may be used provided the whole of the reflector is blackened. 39 08 24, a

1939 08 24

Shoppers at Cambridge's Woolworth stores were suddenly shepherded outside as part of an A.R.P. test. The staff had been warned but customers were quite in the dark when whistles blew just before the usual Thursday closing time. Four of the girls behind the counters approached the 250 customers on both floors and asked them to leave as a test was in progress. Others opened all the tills and put the money into bags, then made for the 'safety room' at the back of the store. Within two minutes fifteen seconds all money was placed in a fire-proof safe, the lights were out, the doors locked and the store's fire-fighting squad had their equipment ready for action. 39 08 24b

1939 08 25

Complete confidence in Cambridge preparations against air attack was experienced by Aid. W. L. Briggs (Chairman of the Cambridge A.R.P. Committee): "I feel that we shall be able, in case of emergency, to put up a thorough working skeleton organisation which we shall make every endeavour to enlarge as the necessity arises. With the volunteers that we have got we have worked persistently to put into operation all the necessary measures. But it must be realised that from the first we have been, from the Government point of view, a non-vulnerable area, and this has restricted us very much in making the preparations which we think are necessary, but every section has persistently and thoroughly worked out the details of their duties. First aid is trained and equipped as far as possible."



With regard to the evacuation scheme", Aid. Briggs added: "Everything has been worked out to the fullest detail, both with regard to reception, billeting, feeding and medical attention" 39 08 25 CIPof

1939 08 25

In view of the crisis all police leave has been cancelled and special constables have been called up. The Fitzwilliam Museum is packing valuable items so they can be removed should the situation worsen and cinemas warned they will be closed in the event of war. Kerbs at street corners have been painted white in readiness for any black-out. There was a constant stream of people collecting gas-masks and a steady demand for black paper and curtains. Prayers for peace will be said at churches and it is hoped that Hitler will see it is suicidal to attempt to make war 39 08 25a

1939 08 28

There are to be two anti-aircraft batteries and one anti-aircraft signalling unit based in Cambridge. Recruiting for the batteries opens at 45 Parkside and Salisbury Villas for the signalling unit. Cambridge has already responded to the call for National Service. The Cambridgeshire Regiment is over establishment, the Royal Engineers unit, 2nd General Hospital and the Cambridge National Defence Company are complete. A second Auxiliary Territorial Service (clerical) company for women will also be raised. 39 08 28

1939 08 29

First ARP shelter at junction Cherry Hinton Road & Perne road – 39 08 29

1939 08 29

Air-raid siren set off accidentally at Waterworks in Rustat Road – 39 08 29a

1939 08 30

Safeguarding Addenbrooke's Hospital – sandbags around wards – photo – 39 08 30 / 113.09

1939 08 30

Ambulance drivers on parade at Corporation store yard, Cheddar's Lane; three completed mobile units and drivers together with their section leaders and the Ambulance Officer (Mr W. Stockbridge). About 60 drivers are still needed to complete the required number. The whole system is now organised. 39 08 30a / 113.10

1939 08 31

Evacuation from London begins – 39 08 31

1939 08 31

Police station well protected: so effectively has the lower portion of the Borough Police Station been obliterated by sandbags that but for the presence of constables going on duty it would have been difficult to recognise - photo – 39 08 31 / 113.02

1939 08 31

Lloyd's Bank practiced evacuating their staff to air raid shelters in the two strong rooms adjoining the main hall of the bank. Those in Lloyds Bank Chambers used a specially constructed cat-walk over the roof to the fire escape window. The two strong rooms are situated one below the other and a trapdoor will supply a means of escape should one of the entrances become blocked. In the event of a raid customers can accompany the staff or seek the nearest public shelter in wine vaults under Peas Hill 39 08 31

## **1939 September**

1939 09 01

Poland invokes treaty with Britain ... mobilisation ordered. Hitler: "no choice but force". "Would seem to mean war". Greatest evacuation begins. Gas mask drill – children in Ramsden Square – 30 09 01 / 113.98

1939 09 01

The first children who have been separated from their London families by the dark threat of war arrived at Cambridge station. The train contained 800 boys and girls, all had a label bearing their name and address, a few carried a football, several had oranges. They were handed bags containing their rations and helped on to the waiting buses 39 09 01a

1939 09 01

An experimental gas mask drill was held for Ramsden Square children. Over 100 assembled and were instructed in the proper use of the gas masks by the senior warden, Mr E. Winkworth. They were told a whistle would sound in the event of an air raid, that the sound of a rattle would indicate a gas attack and a bell would sound when it was safe for them to come from their shelters. Aeroplanes roared overhead as the children were instructed 39 09 01b

1939 09 01

Compulsory powers of billeting are now in force in Cambridge. Quite simply it amounts to this. Enough voluntary offers have been received to take in all the children who are coming in school parties. But expectant mothers and those with young children are also expected and householders will be required to house them. The payment is five shillings a week for each adult and three shilling for each child for lodging only. The adults will be responsible for their food. The third class comprise voluntary helpers from the evacuated areas working full time in Cambridge. The payment for them will be twenty-one shillings for board and lodging which will be paid by the Government. 39 09 01c

1939 09 01

First Air Raid shelter erected, for wardens – 39 09 01 CIP

1939 09 02

Concrete air raid shelter from Cambridge Artificial Stone Co – advert – 39 09 02

1939 09 04

Cambridge had its first air raid warning in the early hours of the morning and hundreds of householders left their beds and adjourned to lower rooms. Others, however, slept through the noise of the sirens. One householder, doubtful about the efficiency of their black-out wrapped a woollen scarf round the electric light. Shortly afterwards they donned their gas masks after noticing a very pungent smell. Later they noticed it came from the scarf which had been charred through. The alarm was caused by the passing of unidentified aircraft over the Eastern Counties. Fighter aircraft went up to investigate 39 09 04

1939 09 04

Children with gas masks – 39 09 04a

1939 09 04

Smiling evacuee – photo – 39 09 04b

1939 09 04

CDN reduced to four pages due war conditions – 39 09 04a

1939 08 05

Many weddings have taken place in Cambridge during the last few days. They include those of Lieut Robert E. Strong and Miss Prudence M. Lathom, married at St Paul's Church and Sapper Frank Rooke and Miss Nellie Haylett, both of Cambridge, who married at St Philip's Church. [Photos on front page]. Owing to war conditions, all newspapers will be reduced in size. The CDN until further notice will consist of four pages. – 39 09 05

1939 09 05

Cambridge is getting into its war stride. After-dark bus services are curtailed owing to lighting restrictions, no cinemas are open and public libraries close at sunset. Banking hours are now 10 to two on weekdays and delays may occur in the collection of cheques. Various museums are taking steps to protect exhibits from damage and already half of the stained glass in the east window of King's College Chapel has been removed. It is being packed and taken to a place of safety. The remaining 23 windows are being left as they are, owing to the enormous nature of the task of removing the glass. 39 09 05a. Some ask 'what use windows if building destroyed?'

1939 09 06

Cambridge company of the ATS – Territorial Unit for women – leave – 39 09 06

1939 09 08

Blow Falls. Well, (writes Watchman), the blow has fallen at last. When I wrote this feature last week, there was still hope that hostilities would not break out, but Hitler has decided otherwise, and now the whole country and Empire is rallying with France to fight for a great principle . . . We enter the conflict regretfully, but resolutely, and fully confident that we shall win through . . . The new lighting restrictions have made progress difficult and strange during the last few days, but we are gradually becoming used to the new conditions . . . One day this week the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries broadcast an important message to farmers and the rural community generally. He said that the farmer's main job is to increase, in an orderly fashion, our home production of essential foodstuffs—a task just as vital to the nation as that which has to be carried out by our armed forces. As far as the immediate after-harvest plans are concerned, the majority of farmers must think in terms of ploughing up more land, both for supply of human food and animal feeding stuffs. The immediate task is to plough up as much land as possible for next year's harvest. 39 09 08 CIPof

1939 09 08

Appeal for two anti-aircraft batteries – 39 09 08a

1939 09 08

War Measures at Cambridge. Banks, buses and libraries are among the services affected by the situation. Mr. A. Cousin, the Eastern Counties Company District Traffic Supt., said that after-dark bus services had had to be curtailed, owing to lighting restrictions "and of course, the cinema buses are not running at the moment, as there are no cinemas open." Both lending departments and reading rooms of the public libraries in the borough are closing by sunset, in view of the lighting regulations. Banking hours have also been altered. They are now from 1.0 to 2 from Monday to Friday and 10 to 1 on Saturdays. This week the stained glass in the east window of King's College Chapel was removed. It was being packed and taken to a place of safety. 39 09 08 CIPof

1939 09 08

Evacuees at Cambridge - first of the children arrived at Cambridge from London on Friday. During the weekend many others arrived and were dealt with. On Friday, numerous helpers gathered at the station. Among them were a number of Rangers who came on duty at six o'clock in the morning to fill the "ration bags" ready for distribution among the evacuees destined for the county on their arrival. 39 09 08 CIPof 113.73

1939 09 09

Peas Hill air raid shelter opens; large cavity under road shelters 400 people in converted wine cellars – photo – 39 09 09, 09a

1939 09 09

Cambridge graduate on torpedoed Athenia liner – 39 09 09b

1939 09 09

“Cambridge transformed - townsmen gone, evacuees here, strangers working away from London, unfamiliar garb, sandbag walls rising, darkened streets ...” 39 09 09 TT

1939 09 11

Going a bit too far?: youngsters at Newnham paddling pool with gas masks following the injunction to “take your gas mask with you wherever you go” – photo – 39 09 11a / 113.65

1939 09 13

Milton Road school ARP trenches – 39 09 13

1939 09 11

Singing the old songs: the familiar strains of ‘Tipperary’ were heard as soldiers on route march cross Silver Street bridge – photo – 113.117

1939 09 14

Cambridge University will not cancel examinations this term and entrance scholarships will be held in December – 39 09 14

1939 09 15

Sir – when my husband handed me his pay packet for last week I found it was 1s.10d short. He told me it was one-and-a-quarter hours lost for the air raid warning which made work impossible. I think it very mean to stop working men’s wages. He clocked in as usual and was ordered to the works’ A.R.P. shelter. Does this mean that if an air raid warning is given during working hour’s money will be stopped, as work has to cease and the men take shelter? – Working Man’s Wife 39 09 15

1939 09 15

War-time Farming Push. The war has come at a time of the year that gives farming the best possible opportunity to prepare for the great effort it must now make in the defence of our country (writes Watchman). Harvest is nearly finished, and has turned out better than at one time seemed possible. Given reasonable weather, farmers will be able to push on with their normal early cultivations and supplement them with ploughing up even more land, for another 1½ million acres of land must be brought under the plough this coming year. It is an ambitious programme, for we are attempting in one, year what we only achieved in four years in the last war .... Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire

are expected to have little difficulty in supplying and probably exceeding, their allotted contributions towards the 1,500,000 acres of land which the Minister of Agriculture proposes to bring under the plough this autumn - 39 09 15 CIPof

1939 09 15

Trenches constructed Milton Road school, followed by County High School – 39 09 15 CIP

1939 09 16

The postponement of petrol rationing gives car owner an extra week's normal driving and enables hundreds of others to see that their tanks are full by the time rationing comes in. Many motorists left the filling of their tanks to the last day and there was a tremendous rush on garages. Several sold out of petrol and one motorist was only able to get one gallon after calls at eight Cambridge garages. For that one gallon he used nearly a half! 39 09 16

1939 09 16

Public ARP shelters open Peas Hill, problems when locked - 39 09 16 TT

1939 09 18

The University Arms pleaded guilty to failing to obscure lights in the hotel and preventing them being visible outside the building. Mr Bradford, the manager, said he had 400 windows and 40 skylights. It had been impossible to screen all these within 36 hours of war being declared. The skylight in the kitchen took four men three days to screen properly. Four of the six hotel porters who would have done the work had been called up and although they'd bought dark blinds some light shone through little cracks. They'd also put notices in each room asking visitors not to open the windows until they had put the lights out. 39 09 18 & a Geldhart public house, Sleaford Street also accused

1939 09 19

Central school pupils return school – photo – 39 09 19

1939 09 20

Kerbs painted white to assist during blackout – 39 09 20

1939 09 21

A departed glory: King's college chapel glass removed – photo – 39 09 21 / 113.04

1939 09 22

Taking precautions – various methods of protecting windows – photo – 39 09 22 / 113.01

1939 09 25

County council employees called up to fight will have their army wages made up to what they would have received. But what other employer would think of many up salaries in this way? They were already more fortunate than others because their jobs would be kept open for them. But they would have to be replaced meaning wages and salaries would be re-duplicated. Many people in business would have to close, others were working for nothing. Properties would fall into the hands of the receivers and rateable values go down, councillors heard 39 09 23 Cambridge does same – 39 09 25

1939 09 28

Taking timely precautions: boys of the Leys School trench-digging in their school grounds with a view to providing protection in case of an emergency. The Mayor's air raid shelter – photos - 39 09 28 / 113.05

1939 09 29

County School trenches: soldiers digging trenches in playground – photo – 39 09 29 / 113.03

## **1939 October**

1939 10 03

Many University staff have already left Cambridge since the start of the war and students from London and St Bartholomew's Hospital have joined students at the Medical School. Undergraduates will continue their studies 39 10 03 & a

1939 10 03

City girls on the farm. London girls, member of the Women's Land Army undergoing a month's training at the University farm, picking potatoes – 39 10 03 / 113.78

1939 10 04

Cambridge business is experiencing a war boom with the influx of thousands of evacuees and fewer facilities for getting to London to shop. A feeling of optimism prevails among tradespeople who point out that although prices will rise in the near future it will not be due to profiteering on their part. The Paris House reports a flourishing sale in fur coats and higher priced merchandise while Mr Hensher of Peas Hill says his shop has been crowded by purchasers of black-out materials, blankets and bedding. Millers say gramophones and wirelesses are selling well and they expect a rush on pianos. 39 10 04a

1939 10 05

Dressmaker, hairdresser, dancing expert, officer clerk, shop assistant and television worker. All these are working side by side potato picking, milking cows, muck spreading and clearing out pigsties at the Cambridge University Farm on Huntingdon Road. The girls are members of the Women's Land Army undergoing a month's training before being sent to work for farmers. The majority are in their late teens and early twenties but some are older. One has her two grown-up daughters with her; her son and his brother are doing their bit in the Tank Corps in France. 39 10 05

1939 10 06

Suggestions for brightening the black-out at Cambridge. Heffer's have a selection of indoor games such as Autobridge, dominoes and jig-saw puzzles. Coad's stock khaki wools and other artistic shades for personal shoppers while Johnson's have a range of novels as well as black-out paper. Gray of Sidney Street can supply miniature billiard tables but those who prefer the real thing should visit the Guildhall Street Billiards Saloon which is open from early morning till late at night. 39 10 06b

1939 10 07

Concert parties to entertain troops – 39 10 07b

1939 10 09

The majority of basements in Cambridge are useless as public air raid shelters since they need to be capable of holding between 50 and 100 people. But those at Herbert Robinson's Garage in Regent Street, Zion Baptist Church, Mr Wheatley's in Sturton Street and Potts' Mineral Water Works in Castle Street are suitable. However these are not enough and shelters should be constructed in various

areas. They will be of brick and concrete and accommodate 50 people. Shelters in schools should be available for the public during the night and at week-ends. 39 10 09a

1939 10 11

Air Raid precautions committee have ensured that petrol supplies will be available for special services and several garages have reserved tanks and pumps for them. There are decontaminating centres at Mill Road store yard, Cherry Hinton Hall and Victoria Road. First aid depots have been set up at Shirley and other Schools with first aid parties and two ambulances. Electrically controlled sirens have been installed which together with the steam sirens should be adequate to give necessary warnings 39 10 11

1939 10 12

ARP shelter under construction at Christ's Pieces – photo – 39 10 12

1939 10 13

Happy evacuees from the poorer parts of London enjoyed a birthday party for 'Little Joan'. She had told her new 'mummy' that she had never had a birthday party before and it added to her happiness to share it with chums from Fulham. Joan enjoys her 'holiday' home and only wants to go back 'now and again'. She would like her mother to come and see her in Cambridge. But mum cannot afford the trip. Other children are saving their money to pay their own mummy's fare. 39 10 13a

1939 10 20

Call-up - between 600 and 800 students and townsmen will be affected by the first proclamation under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act, 1939. The smallness of the number is accounted for by the fact that many men in this age group have already joined the Forces. On Saturday, October 21, - the anniversary of Trafalgar - all men who on October 21 were between the age of 20 years and 22 years, are required to register at the Senate House, King's Parade 39 10 20 CIPof

1939 10 21

Undergraduates make sandbag wall – photo – 39 10 21

1939 10 21

Troops march past War Memorial – photo – 39 10 21a

1939 10 25

Gathering at Matthew's Café for scheme to supply cigarettes and comforts for soldiers – pic 39 10 25

1939 10 27

Hitler's bombs will have no effect on the air raid shelter in the basement of Herbert Robinson's garage in Regent Street which is not only the largest in Cambridge but impregnable even from a direct hit. It has three steel reinforced floors above the actual basement which comprise the shelter. Experts say that even if the first or second floors were damaged by a direct hit from a bomb, people sheltered would still be immune. It comprises 6,000 square feet and has accommodation for over 700 people 39 10 27a

1939 10 28

The Food Officer in Cambridge (Mr C.H. Kemp) and his stall of about 100 have been busy preparing ration books for the time when the Government brings the scheme into operation within the next three weeks. Workers, some volunteers, others recruited from the Ministry of Labour, have prepared 500 cards a day. Now all is ready. Rationed foods will be meat, bacon, ham, butter, margarine, cooking

fats (including lard and dripping) and sugar. There will be an ordinary ration book, another for children under six, one for travellers and a supplemental book for boys aged 13-18 who are considered to need more meat than the average adult. 39 10 28

## **1939 November**

1939 11 01

A.F.S. station – men waiting call to action, photo – 39 11 01a

1939 11 02

ARP trenches, Brunswick school – photo – 39 11 02

1939 11 04

Cambridge is a much more cheerful place in the black-out today than it was when the war started. Then cyclists and pedestrians were few and it felt like a dead city. Now with theatres and cinemas going strong there is plenty of life and the whole atmosphere has changed. But with more traffic comes more danger. Some motorists and cyclists go too fast in the darkened streets. But the worst offenders are pedestrians dawdling in the roadway without any thought for the poor people awheel who with dim lights have to thread their way through the streets. 39 11 04

1939 11 08

Cambridge Fire Boat trial – photo – 39 11 08

1939 11 11

Set against the tragic background of a new war, Poppy Day in Cambridge presented a much more subdued scene. The war-wrought necessity of avoiding large gatherings of crowds and the blocking of streets considerably curtailed the undergraduates' carnival-light activity. Decorated vehicles had been banned. The German Chancellor was the favourite target for shafts of wit and the Cosmopolitan Cinema advertising vehicles offered an invitation to 'Beat up Hitler' by piercing a pip with a dart. 39 11 11a

1939 11 13

The Conscientious Objectors Tribunal under Judge W. Lawson Campbell heard its first cases. A teacher from St Faith's School thought war was incompatible with the teaching of Jesus Christ, a clerk at the Cambridge Electrical Supply Company was a member of the Peace Pledge Union & believed military training led to the decadence of the human race while an undergraduate said he felt war degraded humanity but would do medical work. 39 11 13 & a; also 39 11 14, 39 11 15, 39 11 16a & b

1939 11 16

A letter from the Rev 'Tubby' Clayton was read when Cambridge Toc H Club opened above no.13 Corn Exchange Street, a place which three weeks ago was a home for pigeons. With the town labouring under the restrictions of black-out it was in need of a place where Service men can read, write and play games. On Sundays they can bring their lady friends. Above the entrance are these words: "All rank abandon ye who enter here". 39 11 16c

1939 11 20

Despatch riders inspected – photo – 39 11 20



1939 11 22

People think that war is good for newspapers because of increased sales, when every day brings fresh sensations, success or disaster on land, sea or the air. But it brings a crop of trouble: rising price of newsprint and the blackout adding to difficulties of distribution. Censorship was not to conceal the truth from the public but to prevent information getting into the hands of the enemy. Local news had to be sent to London to be censored but foreign stories arrived at the CDN over a private wire ready for publication. They were able to give later news than the London evening papers as they had to come on the afternoon train which often took two hours. There was terrible unemployment amongst journalists over 30. They were a reserved occupation and could not enrol in any of the services 39 11 22a

1939 11 28

Air Raid Precautions. Testing of air raid warning sirens. In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Home Security, all air raid warning sirens in Cambridge will be tested at 1pm on the first day of each month. If an air raid warning is received on a day when tests are to be held the signal will be reinforced by a free use of whistles by wardens and police. Any siren which has been sounded for real during an alert will not be tested the following month – C.H. Kemp. Town Clerk 39 11 28

1939 11 29

On Cambridge's famous Piece: workmen preparing foundations for a series of A.R.P. shelters on Parker's Piece beside Regent Terrace. The work is being done by several contractors – photo - 39 11 29 / 113.25

1939 11 29

Some classrooms in Trumpington and St Paul's schools were 'dark pits' because of first-aid depots being placed in schools. There was a great danger of sandbags making the rooms damp and as classrooms were being used for people to sleep in all night it was difficult to get them aired, councillors were told. It was also alarming to see enormous laundry vans standing in narrow playgrounds which have to be manoeuvred when the children were about. But at Cherry Hinton there was nowhere else they could go. However three halls there were being used by children now. If they were not fit for first-aid posts, they were not fit to teach children in, Mrs Rackham said. 39 11 29c

## **1939 December**

1939 12 01

Testing an air raid warning siren at the fire station in Cambridge - 134.98

1939 12 01

Scores of undergraduates interrupted a rally organised by the University branch of the Communist Party. Despite the provision of loudspeakers the uproar made it impossible for the Press to hear the speeches. Two fights started in the gallery and there was an attempted raid on the red flag on the platform. The Chief Constable went to the scene. The appearance of two proctors and their 'bulldogs' was a quietening influence. Their coming was the signal for a general donning of gowns by stewards who had removed them in order to carry out more easily their work as 'chuckers out' 39 12 01c

1939 12 01

A Clare College undergraduate told the Conscientious Objectors' Tribunal that he hoped to do psychological work. The idea had come into his head while working in a Basque children's camp when he noticed that many of them had a kind of fit at the sound of an aeroplane. He was registered on condition he continued his studies. A shop assistant from Hinton Avenue, who was a lay reader in the Methodist Church, was registered on condition he undertook agricultural work. A man from

Fulbrooke Road objected on religious grounds; he was a research physicist at the Cavendish Laboratory while a King's College graduate appealed on moral grounds. He was prepared and anxious to perform non-combatant service. 39 12 01d & e

1939 12 06

Newnham College students instructed in use of stirrup pump – photo – 39 12 06

1939 12 08

Cambridge's public air raid shelter push. A News reporter inspected all types of shelter and was impressed with the comparative comfort of the interiors. The person who looks for armchairs will be disappointed, but in some of the larger basements there is plenty of space to walk about and in some there is even central heating. Most shelters have been constructed to withstand any likely fall of masonry and air locks to keep out gas have been installed. They have been arranged within a short distance of areas such as the centre of town where there are usually considerable congregations of people. They are primarily intended for the protection of people caught in the streets in an emergency. Nine are now ready with the cellars under Peas Hill holding 400 people 39 12 08b / 113.26, 113.27

1939 12 09

Call to the colours: thousands of young men registered for military service – old Church Schools Newnham - photo – 39 12 09

1939 12 12

Libraries to close at black-out time – 39 12 12, 39 12 15

1939 12 15

Black-out Deaths. Two women have died in accidents which occurred in the black-out. In one case, where the woman was killed almost instantly, the accident occurred in the Trumpington road, near the Evelyn Nursing Home. Miss Mabel Timms was struck by a lorry owned by Dickerson. The other was at the junction of Histon Road and Gilbert Road. Maria Elizabeth Smith was knocked down by a bus 39 12 15 CIPof

1939 12 15

More shelters being erected 39 12 15 CIP

1939 12 16

The new concrete reservoir on Lime Kiln Hill has been built partly below ground and covered with earth which will be sowed with grass seed, adding a pleasant green mound to the skyline. To guard against an interruption in supply due to a breakdown of pumping machinery or the bursting of trunk mains, the Water Company now had duplicate plan together with a reserve of four million gallons – nearly two days' supply – in its three reservoirs. 39 12 16

1939 12 18

Police are dragging the river for two local cyclists who disappeared during the black-out after they had set out to cycle to their homes. Following a report that what appeared to be two cycles had been seen lying on the bed of the river near Dant's Bridge police commenced dragging and recovered a lady's machine. Later a man's cycle was brought to the surface. They have been identified as belonging to the missing couple. The man could swim but had a disabled leg due to a football injury. The girl is the daughter of a stone mason and worked at a local factory. 39 12 18 & an

1939 12 22

Petrol rationing is focussing attention on town gas as an alternative fuel for motor vehicles. One of the Cambridge University and Town Gas Light Company's coke lorries has just been fitted with a gas container to enable it to run without petrol. The lorry carries enough gas for 11 or 12 miles, which is adequate for deliveries of coke in the district. The range could be extended by putting a second bag on the trailer 39 12 22

1939 12 23

For two years a small community of Basque children have been our guests. Cambridge has become familiar with the little black-eyed, black-haired boys and girls and has enjoyed watching them dance and sing. They arrived under tragic circumstances, racked and nervous; the peace and quiet of the country village of Pampisford, redeemed and restored them. Now they have been adopted into English homes until they can return in safety to their own beloved land of Spain. Now a booklet has been published about their experiences 39 12 23

1939 12 27

War could not 'black-out' the Christmas Eve Festival of nine lessons and carols at King's. From the crowded chapel the message of peace and goodwill travelled by wireless across Europe to France, Italy and Switzerland. The candles flickered even after black-out for a test showed no dangerous amount of light could be seen from outside. But there were dark, blank spaces among the rich glory of the stained windows which told of the removal of some of the glass for safety's sake. 39 12 27a

1939 12 28

Cambridge public air raid shelters are nearing completion and the public is urged to visit specimen shelters. When complete there will be 60 new public shelters accommodating 6,700 people. They include the basement at Scroope House and the Union Society – detailed survey 39 12 28a

1939 12 29

Christmas, 1939, has meant more solemn thoughts than usual for many. In countless homes, the traditional joy and gaiety has been tempered by absence of one or more members of the family. And yet, in spite of gaps at the dinner table, and because the advice to carry on as usual is so obviously sound, there has been little outward change in the character of the Christmas festival. In Cambridge, as elsewhere, people remembered their absent ones, but through the inspiring co-operation of the radio, were able to satisfy themselves that the men in the Services were not forgotten. At home, it was the usual day of gifts—the children's day—and for many the delight lay in entertaining little evacuees whose parents were unable to do the job themselves. The change in the times was reflected, perhaps, in the opening of some cinemas on Christmas day, but found themselves comparatively few patrons; it was still a home festival for most. The Town club had their usual football fixture in the morning, but this had to be scratched. On Boxing Day their fixture with Rushden resulted in a decisive win for Cambridge. Another regular feature was the appearance of the Christmas Day bathers, who found not thick ice, but a deep fog to greet them. 39 12 29 CIPof

1939 12 30

Communist Party pamphlet on Cambridge in war described as "sheer effrontery" – 39 12 30

## **1940**

### **1940 January**

1940 01 03

The Lord Mayor of London visited evacuated children in Cambridge. At St Paul's school he saw classes from St Martin's Parochial School, St Philip's School has scholars from St Martin-in-the-Field while that at Cherry Hinton is attended by children from Brompton-Road School. Later he visited St Matthew's School where other London children welcomed him before going to a Pulteney School Manager's party in the Co-operative Hall. The children were very happy and well-placed and it would be foolish for them to return to the danger area 40 01 03,04

1940 01 10

Getting on with it: ARP shelters being erected on Jesus Green – photo – 40 01 10a / 113.47

1940 01 12

Adult evacuee's impression of Cambridge – 40 01 12b

1940 01 13

Cambridge University has adopted special measures to meet the difficulty of interrupted studies. Many men cannot be expected to reside for more than two years in wartime so modification have been made in certain important courses, particularly engineering and law to enable them to make the best use of the time available. Colleges will admit scholars in December so they may begin their University studies nine months earlier than normal. – 40 01 13a

1940 01 15

Gas Company effect of black-out on consumption offset by large number of people who had come to town – 40 01 15b

1940 01 15

Air Defence Cadet Corps inspection – 40 01 15b

1940 01 17

A.R.P. Ambulance – specially-converted car – photo – 40 01 17

1940 01 18

From Canada to Cambridge: members of the WVS at their Cambridge depot in Regent Street sorting part of the £10,000 gift of clothing sent by the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire in Canada form necessitous evacuees in this district - photo – 40 01 18 / 113.79

1940 01 19

School Shelters. A £10,000 scheme to provide shelters at Cambridge schools was submitted meeting of the Borough Education Committee on Tuesday afternoon when a report of a sub-committee approving the proposals was received. The Committee resolved to approve the estimate involved and to authorise the Town Council to make application to the Ministry of Health for sanction to raise a loan for that amount to cover cost of the work, lighting, drainage, etc. 40 01 19 CIP

1940 01 19

A tribunal heard from a manager at Laurie & McConnal's whose family had been pacifists for generations. If the firm started supplying the army he would have nothing to do with it. An assistant at the Fitzwilliam Museum said he had been attending meetings of the Society of Friends and he could better serve by continuing to help the cultural life of the community. A Saffron Walden art student believed the German people were being misled by leaders who had overstepped all reason. He objected to all forms of military service, even designing camouflage for aeroplane hangars. All were registered as conscientious objectors - 40 01 19a

1940 01 20

WWI communal kitchens, one at Christ Church Institute, soup cooked in Mr Langford's shoe-mending shop, another in St Eligius Street - 40 01 20b, 40 01 20c

1940 01 20

Y.M.C.A. mobile canteen starts - 40 01 20b

1940 01 23

Sir Will Spens, Regional Commissioner, takes tea from YMCA canteen - photo - 40 01 23

1940 01 30

Isolation hospital provision needed at Old Chesterton owing large number evacuee children - 40 01 30d

## **1940 February**

1940 02 01

Chief Air Raid Warden, Coun F. Doggett succeeds Lord Rothschild; Cambridge a safe area and unnecessary to man posts - 40 02 01a, b

1940 02 15

Coleridge Ward ARP wardens meeting - 40 02 15b

1940 02 21

Jan Masaryk, son first President Czechoslovakia speaks - 40 02 21a

1940 02 23

First offenders against 20mph restrictions in black-out - 40 02 23c

## **1940 March**

1940 03 08

Station "Explosion" Test. A presumed explosion in a railway station cloakroom provided a topical setting for the practical tests for the Cambridge District Officers' Shield ambulance competitions held in Houghton Hall Cambridge, on Saturday. Six teams from L.N.E.R. stations took part and the championship was comfortably retained by March "A," who scored 338 points out of a possible 400, 204 in the team test and 134 in the individual (oral) test. 40 03 08

1940 03 13

Civil Servants evacuated to Cambridge opened their club at the Masonic Hall in Corn Exchange Street with a dance to the music of Dan Maskell's band. It is estimated that altogether there are a thousand of them in Cambridge and they are likely to remain for the duration of the war. The club is equipped with table tennis tables, darts boards and a game of skittles. There is a comfortable lounge, reading room and bar as well as a sewing machine and a small iron for the ladies. It is hoped to provide a snack bar at lunch time— 40 03 13c

1943 03 18

ARP volunteered killed in accident near NIAB – 40 03 18a

1943 03 20

Animals ARP centre organised by NARPAC – seven first-aid posts – 40 03 20c

1943 03 21

German refugee offended under aliens' regulations – 40 03 21a

1943 03 21

Air raids on Cambridge improbable says Vice Chancellor – 40 03 21b

1940 03 26

Bank Holiday 'air raid' – first-aid demonstration – 40 03 26a

1940 03 27

Seaman Trevor Surkitt, the young Cambridge man who fought in H.M.S. Exeter at the battle of the River Plate was honoured at the Guildhall for the heroic part he played in the fighting. The presentation took the form of a statuette of a sailor holding a telescope and a silver cup. Seaman Surkitt, of Coldham's Lane, was the youngest seaman on board and was on duty through the battle in the one turret of the ship which was able to continue firing. But he declined to say anything about the action. 40 03 27a

## **1940 April**

1940 04 05

Ancient and Modern: members of Britain's newest Service (RAF) march past King's chapel – photo – 40 04 05 / 113.11

1940 04 05

Bus drivers to stop in event of air raid in a wide thoroughfare or a side street to let ambulances etc pass – 40 04 05a

1940 04 06

Evacuees' birthday party – photo – 40 04 06

1940 04 10

"Animal War Guard, National A.R.P. for animals" – N.A.R.P.A.C. register animals so in event of animal getting lost its owner can be informed – 40 04 08a

1940 04 10

Cherry Hinton ward ARP work – 40 04 10c, d

1940 04 11

Airmen at drill – photo – 40 04 11a

1940 04 11

Provision for people rendered homeless by air raids – to use Labour Hall, Romsey Town, Beaconsfield Hall, Houghton Hall and others – 40 04 11b

1940 04 16

If a raid should come – ARP plan for animals – 40 04 16b

1940 04 19

Another kind of press! Tins of all sorts are among the waste material being collected - Scrap metal collection – photo – 40 04 19a / 113.18

1940 04 25

When parents of illegitimate children of serving men are willing the Cambridge Soldiers', Sailors & Airmen's Families Association endeavours to get them adopted – 40 04 25b

1940 04 27

Conscientious Objectors tribunal – 40 04 27

1940 04 27

Pilot Peter Robinson killed; first man connected with CDN to die – 40 04 27a

## **1940 May**

Members of University Officer Training Corps invited to enrol in LDV in Summer & stay up when rest of University send down to avoid capture if Germans invaded; guarded Post Office, dug slit trenches etc; stayed till October

1940 05 04

Evacuees - 2,088 & 35 teachers remain in Cambridge, 34 return to London – 40 05 04 TT

1940 05 06

A.R.P. shelters are now complete – 40 05 06

1940 05 09

Alex Wood in court over Peace Pledge Union poster urging men not to fight – 40 05 09

1940 05 13

A large number of male enemy aliens who come within the scope of the provisions of a new Home Office order were rounded up members of the Borough Police in plain clothes. The procedure adopted was for the police to go in cars to the homes of the men affected and ask them to go to the police station. From there they were taken to the Guildhall. Before being conveyed by bus to internment

camps, they were allowed to go home, accompanied by the police, to collect clothes and other personal belongings. A number of University men, including Fellows of colleges, were among those dealt with. Four brothers and a man, who will be 60 in a fortnight, were other cases. In several instances, aliens who were out when police called, went voluntarily to the police station – 40 05 13a

1940 05 15

Germans suffer enormous losses ... big battle still raging. Great work by the R.A.F. ... 35 of our machines lost. Rush to join the Defence Corps: there was a very encouraging response to the War Minister's appeal for the formation of a Local Defence Volunteer Corp to counteract possible activities in this country of German parachutists. Photo of some of the many who volunteered during the day - 40 05 15, a,b / 113.85

1940 05 15

Anti-parachutist corps of LDV – rush to join – 40 05 15b

1940 05 16

Appeal for women to join WAAFs – photo – 40 05 16

1940 05 17

A large number of male enemy aliens who come within the scope of the provisions of a new Home Office order were rounded up members of the Borough Police in plain clothes. The procedure adopted was for the police to go in cars to the homes of the men affected and ask them to go to the police station. From there they were taken to the Guildhall. Before being conveyed by bus to internment camps, they were allowed to go home, accompanied by the police, to collect clothes and other personal belongings. A number of University men, including Fellows of colleges, were among those dealt with. Four brothers and a man, who will be 60 in a fortnight, were other cases. In several instances, aliens who were out when police called, went voluntarily to the police station 40 05 17 CIPof

1940 05 23

National Defence Corps on duty for first time; full guard in the new uniform and equipped with riddles patrolled Gas Works – 40 05 23

1940 05 25

Land Army recruiting drive; Cambridge recruiting centre – photo – 40 05 25a

1940 05 31

“Troops pour back from Flanders” ... continue to hold Dunkirk – headlines – 40 05 31

1940 05 31

A.R.P. for pets hurt in bombing raids established in Lion Hotel yard – list of centres – 40 05 31a

## **1940 June**

1940 06 01

“More shiploads of troops arrive... rear-guard men reach Dunkirk; RAF ‘bag’ 75 more Nazi planes ... – headlines – 40 06 01 / 113.81



1940 06 01

Swastikas painted on shops by students – 40 06 01aa

1940 06 01

Road signs removed – photo – 40 06 01aa / 113.67

1940 06 01

Undergraduates leave ten days before normal end of term so can do work of importance rather than have social time – 40 06 01bb

1940 06 05

St Giles church railings removed – photo – 40 06 05

1940 06 06

National Savings Campaign indicator, Post Office – photo – 40 06 06

1940 06 06

Alex Wood & pacifists to withdraw poster – 40 06 06a

1940 06 08

Local Information Committees suggested to circulate reliable news in an emergency – but this is role of newspapers – 40 06 08

1940 06 13

Italians Detained. Cambridge Borough Police began a round-up of Italian subjects in the town immediately after news of Italy's entry into the war and altogether about a dozen were detained. About half are members of the University and the remainder shop assistants. They have left Cambridge for an internment camp. It is understood that there are none in the county 40 06 13 CIPof

1940 06 14

Dunkirk Experiences. Pte. Ernest Marshall, of Comberton was about five miles from Dunkirk when orders were received to make for the coast, and to take to the boats as they became available. Reaching the coast at daybreak, they waded in the water up to their armpits in a vain attempt to board a boat, but every boat was already filled to its utmost capacity. Still un-dismayed, although shells were bursting continuously around them, they decided to return to the shore, and make their way along the coast in the direction of Dunkirk. That five-mile journey was one of living torture. Numerous bombers were hovering overhead, dropping their deadly bombs around them, and heavy shellfire added to their discomfort. By lying flat on the ground and snatching every effort to proceed during a brief lull in the attack, he and his comrades, after seven long hours, eventually reached Dunkirk, where they boarded a boat, which, in spite of heavy enemy attack, landed them safely in England 40 06 14 CIPof

1940 06 19

*Ten people were killed and a similar number injured by two high-explosive bombs which demolished houses in Vicarage Terrace. It was the first raid in the Eastern Region to cause deaths – censored news – censored - 45 09 15 / 113.42a*

Nine die in raid. Nine people were killed when bombs hit a row of cottages in a working class district of a town in Cambridgeshire during Tuesday night's air raid over East Anglia. [Vicarage Terrace, Cambridge] A baby girl aged five months was killed in her cradle. The mother and father were rescued from the wreckage. A mother, father and baby boy of two were killed in another of the cottages. A boy of six died in hospital. The list of casualties as reported in the CDN June 19, 1940: killed: Heather Dear, aged 5 months; William Langley and 'Sam' Langley; Gladys Clarke, 11; Mr & Mrs Beresford and their son Michael, aged two years; Molly Palmer, 9 and Leonard Palmer, 6. Injured: Mrs Daisy Kate Clarke, 42, shock; Charles F. Clarke, 53, fracture of the leg; Peggy Clarke, 15, multiple abrasions; Mrs Kathleen Dear, 22, shock; Sidney Palmer, 54, cut head; Mrs Emma Palmer, 51, multiple injuries; Lily Itzcovitch, 11, an evacuee, cut head and arm; Mrs Mabel Watts, multiple injuries; Mrs Doris Palmer, 34, injuries to the feet; Mrs Lily Langley, 47 shock.

Twelve killed in big raids on England, 100 German bombers engaged ... twelve civilians including five children were killed and many others injured as Germany opened its direct war on Britain during the night with extensive raids over Eastern England [Vicarage Terrace] – headlines – 40 06 19, a, c / 113.86

Last night's raid: casualties in one location [Vicarage Terrace], includes names. Learning to tackle fires: Chesterton housewives with stirrup pump – 40 06 19e, f, g, h, i / 113.89

Tuesday night's raid: the wreckage of part of the eight Cambridgeshire houses demolished in Tuesday night's air raid - Vicarage Terrace – photo – 40 06 20a / 113.13

Vicarage Terrace bombing – experiences of CDN reporter who suspected of being German paratrooper as was wearing red and grey under his greatcoat – his pyjamas. Was not the first – the first bombs on mainland fell near Canterbury on May 9th; May 24th Middlesbrough was first industrial town – 46 03 23b

1940 06 19

New use for old guns in Tenison Road, to be melted down for new – photo – 40 06 19 / 113.82

1940 06 20

More air raid shelters to be built for districts off Newmarket Road – 40 06 20b

1940 06 24

Great salvage drive: a Cambridge refuse collector draws up at the W.V.S. Salvage Stall on Market Hill prior to setting out on a salvage tour of the town – photo – 40 06 24a / 113.17

1940 06 28

Volunteers on parade: broomsticks did duty as rifles at the parade of volunteers held at the Cambridge Town Football Club ground for the purpose of preliminary arms drill – photo – 40 06 28a – 113.84

1940 06 29

Romsey Town stirrup pump demonstration – group – 40 06 29

## **1940 July**

1940 07 02

Clare College railing removed for munitions – photo – 40 07 02b

1940 07 05

Sirens would still be operated when there was grave danger of bombing. It did not necessarily mean that the town would be attacked. "Don't, please, get panicky, that is what Jerry is after. For goodness sake don't let him succeed in his first attempt to get you panicky because you have heard rumours that the sirens are no longer going to be sounded 40 07 05 CIPof

1940 07 08

William Brown, Cross Street missing since Dunkirk – 40 07 08a

1940 07 09

More railings going. Emmanuel College, following the lead of other foundations, are disposing of their railings for war purposes – photo – 40 07 09a / 113.64

1940 07 10

Air raid shelter constructed by two neighbours in Milton Road – photo – 40 07 10b

1940 07 11

From flying pan to Spitfire. Following the appeal for aluminium for aeroplane construction, scholars at Milton Road Junior School are collecting various articles in the district; youngsters with their hauls and the material being delivered at the W.V.S. headquarters at the old Post Office – photo - 40 07 11 / 113.19

1940 07 12

Drink Curfew. Cambridge licensees are not to serve soldiers with drinks after 9.30 p.m. on the instructions of the military authorities. Local Defence Volunteers are not affected 40 07 12 CIPof

1940 07 16

Warren Road shelter interior – photo – 40 07 16a

1940 07 19

Conscientious objectors – majority of undergraduates ordered to do land work – 40 07 19a

1940 07 19

Stirrup pump demonstrated Malcolm St – photo 40 07 19b

1940 07 19

Sapper W. Gurner, Willow Place missing since Dunkirk – 40 07 19c

1940 07 19

W.V.S. sort clothes sent from America – photo – 40 07 19d

1940 07 19

Emergency Traffic Control. New directions for dealing with traffic in the event of invasion were issued by the Eastern Regional Commissioner (Sir Will Spens) They empower chief constables to exclude all traffic & prohibit the use of motor vehicles within any area and to require the immobilisation of such vehicles 40 07 19 CIPof

1940 07 19

Boys from the Leys School, Cambridge have formed teams for seasonal work on the land. The July number of the 'Sugar Beet Review' has two pictures of them, taken on Mr. R. B. Taylor's farm, Ashley, near Newmarket, where the boys put in several days' work. About 50 boys were engaged on each occasion, with four or five masters, and more than 100 acres were singled. 40 07 19 CIPof

1940 07 19

Stirrup pumps for neighbours: families in Malcolm St – 40 07 19

1940 07 19

Able Seaman Joseph Harry Coleman, of 22, Fitzwilliam Street, Cambridge was on the sub-marine Shark which is presumed lost. He joined the navy in 1915, leaving in 1930. Shortly afterwards he obtained employment at Sidney Sussex College. As he was on the reserve, he was called up at the end of August. 40 07 19 CIPof

1940 07 20

Stourbridge Grove man has air raid shelter from old car body – 40 07 20a

1949 07 24

Motor cyclists appealed to sell motor bikes for war purposes; photo of civilian machines in front of Hallens, Chesterton Road – 40 07 24a

1947 07 24

Red Cross Society collect books for troops – 40 07 24b

1940 07 24

Dumps for scrap to be set up, manned by W.V.S. – 40 07 25d

1940 07 26

“Explosions heard by readers last night we're not due to enemy action” – 40 07 26a

1940 07 26

Call-up Contrasts. Many of the 1907 class registering at Cambridge on Saturday (for service) numbered 646. Three expressed preference for the submarine service, 48 for the Royal Navy and one either for the Navy or the Marines. Three hundred and thirty two men chose the RAF (20 for flying, 303 for ground staff) and nine for either ground or flying duties. There were five conscientious objectors. 40 07 26 CIPof

1940 07 26

Cambs. War Agricultural Committee, visited the University Farm. Cambridge and shown the work being done there in ploughing up grass land for the cultivation of animal crops 40 07 26 CIPof

1940 07 29

Castle Mound closed due to people going up with binoculars, not known if spies or just curious – 40 07 29d

1940 07 30

Home Guard rifles being overhauled in Corn Exchange – photo – 40 07 30a / 113.118

1940 07 30

Marmora Road – four neighbours construct joint shelter – photo – 40 07 30b

## **1940 August**

1940 08 02

Samuel Rudd, Mowbray Road reported wounded and missing – 40 08 02

1940 08 03

Leys and the war, no evacuation of students, not to be requisitioned for hospital purposes, say Governors – 40 08 03

1940 08 09

More Farmers' Boys. - A party of 32 lads from the Central School Melbourn Place, Cambridge, arrived in Melbourn and commenced farm and orchard work where required. The lads are accompanied by the Headmaster, Mr. J. D. Livingstone, and take the place of the 30 lads from the Coleridge School, who returned home on Saturday after a fortnight's work in the orchards. After 15 08 27a fortnight in the village, the Central lads will leave, and their place will be taken by another party. The boys sleep in the infants' room of the Council School, and have their meals in the Church Room. 40 08 09 CIPof

1940 08 13

Corp F.S. Halliday, Catherine St, died on service – 40 08 13d

1940 08 14

Examinations Hall now an emergency ward of Addenbrooke's Hospital – photo – 40 08 14

1940 08 16

The Duchess of Gloucester visited Cambridge. At an emergency hospital, the whole of the nursing staff, regular and auxiliary, were lined up and inside the ward, the royal visitor talked with some of the patients, including several members of the B.E.F. back from France. An R.A.F. sick quarters, which is entirely nursed by the Red Cross, was the next place of call. After inspecting two of the wards, the Duchess saw a short display of surgical work by the nurses. Proceeding next to the University examination Hall, now an emergency ward of Addenbrooke's Hospital, the Duchess saw some of the American ambulance units presented to the region then inspected the joint war organisation emergency hospital stores 40 08 16 CIPof

1940 08 21

ARP see demonstration of National D.X. powder to extinguish incendiary bombs, at Cherry Hinton Hall – photo – 40 08 21

1940 08 24

Members of the Home Guard from the Cambridgeshire zone were among those inspected by the King during his tour of defences in East Anglia. About 200 men were drawn up outside a railway station under the Zone Commander for Cambs. (Major W. N. Phillips). 40 08 24, 40 08 30 CIPof

1940 08 24

Mayor launches 'Spitfire' fund – 40 08 24a

1940 08 26 - censored

A total of eight explosive bombs fell on Cambridge (one failing to go off). The unexploded bomb fell a few feet from a house at the end of Leys Avenue, stripping wallpaper, but without harming the people in the house. Some of the other bombs fell in Pemberton Terrace and Shaftesbury Avenue, but although houses were damaged, injuries caused were negligible – censored story – 49 09 15 / 113.42b

Last night's raids, six high explosives in a south-east town, one behind a hedge, part of roof dislodged; crater 10 feet wide – 40 08 26b; photos [Pemberton Terrace] – 40 08 29a [photo: 173.50, 173.51]

1940 08 26

Seaman Reginald Carter, Histon Road, kia – 40 08 26a

1940 08 28 bombing

High explosives and incendiary bombs [Cherry Hinton] – 40 08 29a

1940 08 30

Dornier Down. A Dornier 215 was brought down by anti-aircraft gunners in Cambridgeshire shortly before midnight on Friday. The three-inch guns damaged the bomber just sufficiently to force the German pilot to land. All five of the crew were taken prisoner 40 08 30 CIPof

## **1940 September**

1940 09 05

Cambridge to have Sunday cinemas – four to open – 40 09 05b

1940 09 06

Leys School morning to Scotland as needed by Addenbrooke's Hospital - 40 09 06a

1940 09 09

American Ambulance unit stationed in Cambridge inspected – 40 09 09a

1940 09 09

Pilot Hugh Ellis, Fulbrooke Road, missing – 40 09 09b

1940 09 10

Corporation can assist householders to protect homes from bombs – list of streets covered – 40 09 10a

1940 09 13

A man was killed when a barrage balloon drifted over Cambridge. Daniel Dunston was near the railway between Mill Road and Coldham's Lane Bridge when he was caught by a steel cable trailing from the balloon. He was carried for a distance of over 30 yards and then dropped, sustaining fatal injuries. Before the accident the balloon had passed over the town at a considerable height. In the Mill Road area it came lower, and the cable threw a wireless pole through the roof of a house in Mill Road. The interior of the house was not damaged and no-body was injured in this incident. The balloon then gained height and drifted in the direction of Teversham. At Teversham Hall an old chimney stack on a scullery was struck by the cable. A piece of the cable was snapped off and the balloon at once shot up

into the air and continued in an easterly direction. Telephone wires were damaged and the electricity supply for a village was affected for a time 40 09 13 CIPof, 40 09 13a inquest 40 09 17a

1940 09 18

Girl killed by army motor truck, Mill Road – 40 09 18a

1940 09 20

Junkers 88 crashed near Cambridge after being engaged by RAF fighters; four occupants taken into custody – 40 09 20a

1940 09 20

Cars and Invasion. Eastern Regional Commissioner (Sir Will Spens) says "Owners of motor vehicles should understand the necessity for immediate compliance with any order which may be given for the immobilisation of motor vehicles, if invasion is taking place. In the event of any failure by the owner, the police or military will inevitably have to use rough-and-ready methods of immobilisation, involving serious damage to cars. The same will apply in the case of any attempt to use vehicles in areas where such use has been prohibited." 40 09 20 CIPof

1940 09 21

Firemen deal with truck load of ammunition which caught fire at the Coldham's North yard and spread to three other trucks – 40 09 21b

1940 09 23

Man killed by army truck, Bulstrode Gardens – 40 09 23a

1940 09 24

Germany says bombs dropped on Cambridge in retaliation for British bombing on Heidelberg which contains no military objects – 40 09 24a

1940 09 26

Marshall sends cheque for Tiger Moth to Minister of Aircraft Production – 40 09 26a

1940 09 27

Myra Hess and Isolde Menges play Beethoven sonatas in Cambridge Guildhall – 40 09 27a – 113.90

1940 09 27

Polish fete at Cambridge – the wife of the Polish ambassador, Countess Raczynska at fete at Newnham College in aid of the Cambridgeshire Society for Polish Relief – photo - 40 09 27 / 113.90

1940 09 28

Pavement show for Spitfire fund. Members of St Martin's School of Art, which has been evacuated from London to Cambridge, helped the Spitfire Fund by staging a pavement shows on King's Parade. – photo – 40 09 28 / 113.77

1940 09 30

Cambridge children on board liner torpedoed by submarine – all safe – 40 09 30b

1940 09 30

Home Guard concert at Cosmopolitan – 40 09 30c

## **1940 October**

1940 10 01

Department of Applied Economics announced, review of war on university – 40 10 01

1940 10 02

Pte Arthur Stokes, a sentry in Cambs, was fatally injured – a man who was going on duty leaned his unloaded rifle against a 'pill box' to put on his equipment. He then picked up another mans rifle, not knowing it was loaded. – 40 10 02a, 40 10 04a

1940 10 02

A.C. Taylor helped raise Anti-Aircraft battery of Cambridge men. They had to bring down bandits, protect vital spots and force raiders to high altitude. People grumbled because warnings were not sounded but sounding them three or four times a night would upset morale. When they have solo machines floating about trying to put the wind up he is glad sirens are not sounded. – 40 10 02b

1940 10 02

Tramp knocked down by car during blackout in Trumpington High Street – 40 10 02c

1940 10 08

Futile Nazi bombs in East Anglia – photos of mound and crater with wardens, bomb by roadside and pieces found in area – 40 10 08a [photo: 173.49]

1940 10 09

Recreation ground railings to go – 40 10 09a

1940 10 11

Fewer Students. Full term at Cambridge at the start of the second year under war conditions saw the number of students up still further reduced from last year's figures. Instead of the normal peace time total of 5,000, it is estimated that the number of men coming up will be only 2,500. Graduates, as well as undergraduates, have left on national service of one form or another. Third year men of course, represent only a small fraction of the total coming up, while the number of freshmen is only a little over half that usually to be found second year men are in the majority by far, and the number is estimated to be only 20 below normal 40 10 11 CIPof

1940 10 12

H.M.J. Loewe since 1933 played active part in work of ex-patriated German and others with no concern for creed. His house was a place where all in trouble could go. Took active part in Jewish community – 40 10 12a

1940 10 15 - censored

One person was killed when a single bomb hit a house in Barrow Road – censored story – 45 09 15 / 113.42. Photo – 40 09 27; photos – 40 10 16a, b



1940 10 18

Awarded D.S.C. Capt E.S. Lewis, Royal Marines, of 98 Glebe Road, has been awarded the D.S.C. Before being called up last October, Capt Lewis was well-known as the Cambridge manager of Messrs E. Pordage & Co.Ltd, Hills Road and his new honour is of particular interest because during the last war he won the D.S.M. 40 10 18 CIPof

1940 10 21

Rifle fired during struggle at dance at Beaconsfield Hall – 40 10 21a

1940 10 26

University numbers in residence – 40 10 26a

1940 10 26

Compulsory billeting powers have been used in Chesterton rural district, and one billeting officer at least has resigned rather than countenance their use. In 12 cases compulsion had been used. The success of compulsory billeting had "far exceeded our hopes." "In selecting what the war communiqués refer to as targets, we have decided that compulsion should be used more against those larger houses where strangers can be accommodated with less interference of the occupier's domestic arrangements than a smaller house." They had fought hard against resorting to compulsory billeting but there never had been a voluntary system, but always a compulsory one. – 40 10 26 TT, 40 11 01 CIPof

1940 10 30

Round Church railings removed for scrap – photo – 40 10 30b

## **1940 November**

1940 11 01

Peas Hill air raid shelter interior, showing old wine bottles – photo – 40 11 01b

1940 11 06

New Street schools communal feeding for children – photo – 40 11 06c

1940 11 08

Air- Raid. An enemy plane dropped a high explosive bomb in a field shortly after midnight on Friday. Fortunately the only damage done was to the windows of several houses. Two semi-detached houses had the front window frames completely blown out and another house was also damaged. A woman and daughter, the tenants, were in bed and a clock on a chair was lifted on to the bed and struck the woman. All the pans and crockery in the scullery were thrown to the floor and broken and the back door to the kitchen was lifted from its hinges. There were no casualties. Several other houses in the villages some distance away had windows broken 40 11 08 CIPof

1940 11 09

Duchess of Gloucester opened the new WVS Club for Servicemen and Women in St. Andrew's Street. Although the visit had been kept very secret, a crowd of several thousands gathered in the street and gave Her Royal Highness a hearty send-off. The new club has been made possible through the generosity of an anonymous donor, and includes a. separate room for women. 40 11 09a & b, 40 11 15 CIPof

1940 11 14

Recreation centre opened St Andrew's Hall, Chesterton, for men & women – 40 11 14a

1940 11 15

More railings removed. The work of removing the ironwork surrounds from local buildings is continuing. One of the latest to part with its gates and railings is the Wesley Church in King Street – photo – 40 11 15 / 113.46

1940 11 19

Home Guard training, includes military band – 40 11 19a

1940 11 23

Nazi that was Messerschmitt-en – Corn Exchange war weapons exhibition – Messerschmitt shot down in county 40 11 23b, 40 11 26b,c / 113.63

1940 11 23

Hospital Inspected. Cambridgeshire's first convalescent home and auxiliary hospital under the Joint War Organisation and the Ministry of Health is staffed by two trained sisters, Miss Simmons and Mrs. Bailey, and B.R.C.S. members of detachments Cambridgeshire 14 and 38. Commandants Mrs. Martin Wright and Miss S Phillips 40 11 23c, 40 11 29 CIPof

1940 11 26

Canada ex-prime-minister at War Weapons exhibition – 40 11 26a

1940 11 28

Cinema van helps war weapons week – 40 11 27a; picture 40 11 28a

1940 11 29

War weapons week parade cars – photos – 40 11 29a

## **1940 December**

1940 12 03

Girl guides in war-time: what they are doing – 40 12 03b

1940 12 04

Communal kitchen run at Blinco Grove Parochial Hall – photo – 40 12 04b

1940 12 06

St John Ambulance centre opened in Falcon Yard – 40 12 06a

1940 12 16

Cambridge club for officers opened at Union Society – 40 12 16a

1940 12 19

Ladies who speed the mail. Scenes at the Sorting Department of the Cambridge Post Office, where women are assisting the officials to cope with the rush of Christmas mail. At work in the garage – and

'overflow' for the parcels. Dealing with postal packets. Some of the women setting off on deliveries. They are conveyed to various points in buses – photos – 40 12 19 / 113.31

1940 12 24

King's college carol service broadcast; residents not allowed as seats for military personnel – 40 12 24a

1940 12 27

Christmas festivities – Mayor's visits – 40 12 27a

1940 12 30

First parade of local battalion Home Guard on St John's College playing field – 40 12 30a

## **1941**

### **1941 January**

1941

Home Guard distinction for Cambridge? The Cambridge Home Guard Band which is thought to be the first of its kind in the country – 113.29

1941 01 02

Air raid shelters; Haldane shelters would not be approving owing to lack of material and labour but blastproof walls were desirable; new brick walled surface shelters planned – 41 01 02a

1941 01 07

Roof-spotter at work in Cambridge. A.R.P. wardens have added to their responsibilities important fire-spotting duties/ Are the nightly vigils of these and other 'Jim Crows' appreciated by the public? Householders can help by placing buckets of water outside their doors (as in the Chesterton district) and having sand and shovels handy near the roofs – 41 01 07b / 113.30

1941 01 09

Cambridge railway control centre in bomb-proof shelter – feature – 41 01 09a

1941 01 16 – censored

On a bitter, icy night, when pipes were frozen, raiders dropped something like 200 incendiary bombs, most of them in the vicinity of Hyde Park Corner. Perse School was severely damaged by fire while a warehouse nearby, in Regent Street, also suffered considerably. Firemen were hampered by hydrants either buried by snow or frozen over and the next morning saw a rare sight at the back of the school when a May tree was transformed into a solid mass of icicles– 49 09 15 / 113.42a

East Anglian town's miniature fire blitz. Famous public school [Perse] damaged, Garage and wireless store suffer. Magnificent work by fire fighters – photos – 41 01 16, a,b,c / 113.20 & a

Perse school treasures saved after fire destroyed library and classrooms. The shields which hung around the walls, the War Memorial and the portrait of Dr Rouse survived – 41 02 15a, 41 02 20b

Fire and frost – photos released by censor – give an idea of the bitter weather conditions under which fire-fighting was carried on during the 'miniature blitz' – ice on trees – 41 01 28 / 113.21

1941 01 23

First wedding of refugees in synagogue – 41 01 23a

1941 01 25

Dr Eduard Benes, President Czecho-Slovak republic visits Cambridge – 41 01 25a

1941 01 27

Sand bags tied to lamp posts vandalised in Mill Rd – 41 01 27a

1941 01 27

Fire-fighting display – photo – 41 01 27b

1941 01 30

Air Defence Corps formed – 41 01 30a

1941 01 30

*At four o'clock in the afternoon the reporters' room echoed to a series of thuds. Mill Road Bridge was obviously the target for the attack but the bombs hit nothing more 'military' than two small cottages by the side of the bridge. Two people, however, lost their lives and 10 others were injured – censored – 45 09 15 / 113.42a*

Three people are feared to have been killed and four others received head injuries when a German raider dropped several high explosive bombs on an East Anglian town yesterday afternoon. The plane dived low before releasing the bombs, said an eye-witness. One bomb fell on a row of small houses, demolishing two, and some of the casualties were people in these premises – 41 01 31 CIPof

East Anglian day raiders – 40 01 31a

Bombs next door - but she carries on! Bombs dropped by a 'tip and run' raider fell between two houses and caused local damage. Windows were also broken in the streets around. Pictures show the scene where the bombs fell. A housewife is calmly brushing from her window debris blown from the house next door, and Civil Defence workers are taking refreshment after their duties have been completed. It was learned today that the fatal casualties were only two, and not three, as first believed - photo – 41 01 31b / 113.87

1941 01 31

ARP exhibition included incendiary bomb detector, poison gas detector; prepared by Cambridge scientists – 41 01 31d

1941 01 31

Airman Missing. Local sporting circles will learn with regret that Sergeant W. H. H. Johnson, a wireless operator air gunner in R.A.F.V.R. is reported missing, believed killed, while on a training flight. Sgt. Johnson was an active rowing member of the Rob Roy Boat Club, a delegate to the C.R.A. and a well-known playing member of the Cambridge Rugby Club. He was employed in the Surveyor's Department at the Corporation Storeyard. 41 01 31 CIPof

## **1941 February**

1941 02 05

Cambridge People's Vigilance Committee ARP exhibition includes incendiary bomb detector & Haldane shelter details – 41 02 05a

1941 02 07

Killed by enemy action. News has reached Cambridge that A/C George Pope, son of Mr. J. Pope, of 55 Gwydir Street, Cambridge, has been killed as the result of enemy action. A/C Pope, who was 29 years of age, had been employed by Mr. T. Freeman, plumbing and heating engineer, of Histon Road, Cambridge, and was very popular with all his workmates. He joined the Volunteer Air Reserve, and was called up for service at the beginning of the war. 41 02 07 CIPof

1941 02 12

RAF bomber crashes on top houses in Histon Road, three aged women killed – Miss Catharine Allen, Mrs Ann Warland, Mrs Ada Sara Blackwell. A fourth, Mrs Mary Hewitt, taken to hospital. The plane caught the top of the houses, completely wrecking the top storey of the village, Afterwards it came to rest on a tennis court at the back of the houses. The crew were uninjured – 41 02 12a

Bomber's night crash at Cambridge – photo - 41 02 13a / 113.88

Inquest details – 41 02 14a

1941 02 14

Fire-fighting practice using stirrup pump – 41 02 14b

1941 02 15

“Shelters on Parkers Piece look hideous” - 41 02 15 TT

1941 02 15

*A bomb fell immediately in front of a house in Cherryhinton Road. The porch was blown in, but all eight occupants of the building escaped unhurt – censored – 45 09 15 / 113.42a*

Raider's night bomb demolishes house front; 10 people escaped when high explosive bomb fell a few feet from house – 41 02 17a

Amazing escapes when this happened. Ten people including two babies had remarkable escapes from injury when the front of this house in a south-eastern residential district [Cherryhinton Road] was demolished by a raider's bomb on Saturday night – 41 02 18b – 113.12

Ten people, including two young babies, had a remarkable escape from injury in an East Anglian town on Saturday night, when a high explosive bomb fell only a few feet from the front wall of the house in which they were staying. The whole of the front of the building was affected, but Mr. and Mrs. Coles, who were in the front bedroom, were unhurt. The other occupants of the houses, which are semi-detached, were Mr. and Mrs. Lewis and their two-year-old baby, Mrs. Mapey, Mrs. Andrews and Mr. and Mrs. Honeywell and their two-year-old baby 41 02 21 CIPof

1942 02 24

*A sharp attack resulted in the death of 11 people, including wardens and firewatchers on duty, and injuries to about a score more. The attack was carried out in three phases. Incendiaries were dropped at 10 pm in the Cherryhinton Road district. At 10.35 pm two h.e.s made a direct hit on a house at Grantchester Meadows, killing two women. At 11.35 a whole batch of h.e.s and scores of incendiaries fell in the Hills Road area, between Hyde Park Corner and Station Road. Wardens and firefighters were caught in the streets, while other people were injured in their homes – censored – 45 09 15 / 113.42a*

Ten people are known to have been killed and a number of others injured when a fairly concentrated attack was made on an East Anglian town (Cambridge) on Monday night. Six of the dead are women and four men. Three of the injured are stated to be in a serious condition. The fatal casualties included an elderly air raid warden, Mrs. Charles Gent and several other fire watchers who were standing in the road outside a hotel. Sapper Day and Mr. Brittain were among the other victims. Hundreds of

incendiary bombs and a considerable number of high explosives were dropped by the raiders, which flew over very low at intervals. Many flares could be seen in the sky around the out-lying parts of the town and British fighters were heard overhead. The main brunt of the damage was borne by business and commercial premises in one street, where for some distance along both sides of the road (Hills Road) shops were demolished or damaged. Hardly a pane of glass intact in this district and several houses in side streets nearby suffered broken windows. It was in this area that two of the other fatal casualties, Mr. A. Negus and Mrs. Robertson, occurred. An eye-witness said next morning that during the raid a German plane appeared to fly over the road dropping incendiaries and was followed a few minutes later by another machine, which dropped high explosives. It was these which caused a large number of casualties. In another district a single high explosive bomb landed directly on a house, killing the Misses Barker, who were in the building at the time. Neighbours were also injured, but not seriously. The three others to lose their lives were Miss Thaxter, Mrs. Woodcock and Mr. Ashman 41 02 25 a,b,c, 41 02 28 CIPof,

## 1941 March

1941 03 11

Czech Foreign Minister, Jan Masaryk speaks at Guildhall – 41 03 11

1941 03 24

W.S. Farren of Trinity is one of 'back room boys' developing aero engines and bombs – 41 03 24

1941 03 28

Extensive damage was done by a fire which broke out in the north wing of Pembroke College in the early hours of Saturday. The fire is believed to have started in one of the bedrooms of an upper storey, and the flames quickly spread along the whole length of the block under the roof. A fire-watcher raised the alarm, and regular and auxiliary firemen were soon on the scene with several trailer pumps, in addition to the three regular engines. Fire squads from the laboratories across the road and the college fire squad also assisted in fighting the flames. They had secured such a hold, however, that it was two hours before they could be brought under control. Most of the damage due to the flames was in the roof and upper part of the block, but the thousands of gallons of water poured on the fire soaked through to the lower rooms. Many of the occupants of the block were roused from their beds when the seriousness of the outbreak was discovered, and some of them assisted in removing furniture to the court. The treasurer of the college (Mr. J. T. Spittle) said: "It is impossible yet to estimate the damage, as we cannot get into some of the rooms. The damage, however, is extensive 41 03 28 CIPof

## 1941 April

1941 04 01

*German agent Jan Ter Braak found shot dead in Christ's Pieces Air Raid shelter. It was thought that murder might have been committed. Just as the CDN was going to the press an urgent message was received from the Ministry of Information. The front page was remade due to censorship. The man was a German agent, dropped by parachute, who was known by police to have a portable transmitting set in his lodgings. The man, a young Dutchman, arrived the previous November and had three lodgings in in Cambridge. Posing as a refugee and a member of the Free Dutch Movement, he claimed to be writing a book. An office that he opened lent support to his story and nobody guessed that the small suitcase which never left him contained a radio transmitter. The end came when, presumably, he realised that M.I.5 had him 'taped' and that the net was closing in on him – censored story - 45 09 07 / 113.41*

1941 04 01

'Cambridgeshire' fighter plane funded by Lord Fairhaven – photo – 41 04 01

1941 04 08

St Edward's church railings removed for scrap – photo – 41 04 08

1941 04 19

Women register at Senate House with 1920 class – the first batch to be called under the Government new Registration for employment Order – 41 04 19

1941 04 23

Salvage campaign – photos include road roller flattening tins – 41 04 23

1941 04 26

Fallowfields wardens arrange own gas test – photo – 41 04 26

1941 04 28

Land Army – 100 assemble on Parker's Piece for rally; need billets – 41 04 28

## **1941 May**

1941 05 02

D.F.M. It has been officially announced that Sergt, Pilot A. F. Wiles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wiles, of 85 Sedgwick Street, Cambridge, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal. Sergt Wiles, who has been employed by the L.N.E.R., has been in the R.A.F. for the last ten years, and has gained high distinction in boxing circles, he is the holder of the Middle East Command championship, and has many cups and medals to his credit. 41 05 02 CIPof

1941 05 07

Central Library dome – cannot obtain wire netting to protect glass dome so recommend it closed on sounding of an alert – 41 05 07

1941 05 09

*A determined attack when fire bombs were showered in the area between Hills Road and Trumpington Road. Fifty houses received direct hit, yet all but four or five of the resulting fires were put out within a few minutes with stirrup pumps and sand. The effects of the attack were nullified by the good work of the firewatchers, wardens and Auxiliary Fire Service – censored - 45 09 15 / 113.42a*

Fire bomb damage on East Anglian town – thousands of incendiaries and high explosives (Coldham's Lane, Marshall Road area) – censored – 41 05 09

1941 05 10

Railings taken for scrap, historic ones saved – 41 05 10 TT

1941 05 14

Assize Courts railings to be removed – 41 05 14

1941 05 15

New Kitchen Club under Ministry of Food scheme in Trinity Street; equipped with electric and gas cookers – 41 05 15

## **1941 June**

1941 06 02

Account of duties of Regional Commissioner for Civil Defence for Eastern Region, Sir Will Spens; a miniature Cabinet to see government plans carried out; if invasion he becomes virtual ruler of area with extraordinary powers – 41 06 02

1941 06 05

Madrigals on the river: pictures of the crowd at the popular May Week Festival at the back of King's College where madrigals were sung by singers in punts – 41 06 05 / 113.16

1941 06 05

Censorship – facts raiders must not know – 41 06 05

1941 06 09

Cambridge popular concert party 'Romas' present 71st performance of their Forces Show to air raid wardens of Castle Ward; includes Maurice and Betram Garner, Rita Thurbon, Phyllis Burling, Les Germany and Dorothy Green – 41 06 09

1941 06 15

Madrigals sung on river as part of May Week Festival – 41 06 15

1941 06 21

Mayor cuts down railings WVS HQ, St Andrew's Street – photo – 41 06 21b

1941 06 23

First Aid Flying Squad starts first practice – 41 06 23

1941 06 24

Potatoes grown outside the Master's Lodge at St John's College, Bridge Street – 41 06 24, photo 24a / 113.14

## **1941 July**

1941 07 11

Cambridge A.R.P. Difficulties. In the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. Glenvil Hall (Lab., Colne Valley) asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he was aware that difficulties have arisen in the Cambridge Civil Defence organisation, as the result of which certain individuals had been called upon to resign, and whether he will set up an inquiry to report upon the matter. Mr. Herbert Morrison (Home Secretary) replied that he understood there had been some complaints and that these were the subject of investigation at present 41 07 11 CIPof

1941 07 12

One ton of waste paper makes 7,200 gas masks" etc - 41 07 12 TT



1941 07 15

ARP exercises Milton Road area – photos – 41 07 15

1941 07 15

War-time allotments – over 50 acres under cultivation, 2,000 provided with vegetables; first piece of land was in Ainsworth Street in Oct 1939 – 41 07 24

1941 07 19

WVS hostel for women opens, Grange Rd – 41 07 19

1941 07 25

Mobile canteen given by Company of Veteran Motorists – 41 07 25

1941 07 26

Cambridge man had wireless set taken from German plane hidden in clothing in his wardrobe – 41 07 26– trial – 41 08 09

1941 07 30

Officer shot and killed by sentry near Cambridge – 41 07 30, 41 08 02

1941 07 31

New Valentine tanks on Matilda transporter to tour Cambridge – 41 07 31b, 41 08 01a, b # c.45.7

## **1941 August**

1941 08 22

Cherry Hinton Hall Hostel for evacuated children opened at start war for children who cannot be kept in their billets. Some may stay; psychological treatment has been obtained – 41 08 22

1941 08 23

Poison gas exhibition at Public Library – 41 08 23a, 41 08 26

1941 08 29

Great Eastern Street bombing – photo – 41 08 29

Bombs on East Anglia Town. An old lady and a four-year-old boy lost their lives when high explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped on an East Anglian town last week [Sturton Street]. A Sunday School in Sturton Street was destroyed and a chapel and private houses were considerably damaged. The dead are Mrs. Louisa Rowell, aged 82, and John Gilbert Bowles, aged four, both of whom were sleeping in the same house. Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bowles, parents of John Bowles, were injured and have been detained in hospital. A high explosive bomb which fell outside the chapel caused damage to the interior, but incendiaries which were dropped were promptly tackled by A.R.P. personnel and neighbours and overcome before they could gain a hold. 41 08 29 / 113.59

## 1941 September

1941 09 (c)

Wed at Emmanuel Congregational Church: Aircraftsman Arthur Gillingham of Devonshire Road and Esther Reeve of Grantchester Street – photo – 113.35

1941 09 01

Massed bands sound 'Retreat' King's – 41 08 16; Parker's Piece – 41 09 01

1941 09 03

Red Cross & St John mobile canteen newly arrived from London under Joint War Organisation; will form part of an Emergency Flying Squad to help with invalid and children's cooking in case of a major blitz – 41 09 03

1941 09 06

King Peter of Yugoslavia attends Clare College 1st reigning monarch; Queen Marie of Yugoslavia visits Cambridge, inspects Queen's Messengers Convoy & WVS canteen – 41 09 06 41 09 06 TT

1941 09 08

National Day of Prayer mass church parade at Christ's Church – photos – 41 09 08

1941 09 08

Soldier killed and eight injured in army vehicle road crash, Hills Road – 41 09 08

1941 09 20

Air raid on Huntingdon Road – photos of debris – 41 09 20b

1941 09 27

Plane crashes garden Bene't Place, pilot killed – photos - 41 09 27

1941 09 27

"Cambridge & Newnham" Spitfire starts service, (destroyed 1944) [9.8]

1941 09 29

*The fact that it was a pouring wet night, keeping everybody indoors, was responsible for the complete absence of casualties when a 'stick' of high-explosives and incendiaries fell in Huntingdon Road, just beyond the top of Castle Hill. Extensive damage was caused to telephone wires and public service pipes, but there was no traffic about and nobody in the road at the time, or they could not have escaped– censored – 45 09 15 / 113.42a*

Incendiary & high explosive bombs on East Anglian town, several houses damaged; fire guards at work, repairs in hand; small preparatory school had bomb in basement, nursery school also damaged; Mrs Rootham had fortunate escape, found accommodation with Mr Reddaway – 41 09 29a

1941 09 30

Surprise gas test – 14 09 30

## **1941 October**

1941 10 03

Billeting scheme evacuees has been successful, complaints that rich received fewer evacuees than poor – but they had left as house too posh; many houses had rooms reserved for relations – 41 10 03

1941 10 04

Women, war and victory campaign – 41 10 04a

1941 10 04

Cambridge Home Guard – group photo – 41 10 04b

1941 10 07

Civil defence – 108 new public shelters planned – 41 10 07

1941 10 09

Clement Attlee sees war work factory at Robinson's premises, Regent Street during visit for the War Work Week meeting at the Guildhall. He visited the shop window factory at Messrs Robinson's premises in Regent Street. Photos show him with Mrs Atlee, Herbert Robinson and R.F. Winfrey (Eastern Region Information Officer). Seen interested in one of the many fascinating machines on view– photo – 41 10 09 / 113.96

1941 10 10

Hostel for evacuated boys at Meadowcroft, Church Street, Chesterton – photo – 41 10 10

1941 10 10

Mrs Alice Jones set up factory where she and maid used drilling and milling machine; soon six drillers, two millers and three lathes with music relayed from a wireless set in house. Then relocates to building formerly used as a piano store where more machinery installed and 40 people, 10 girls and 30 men now working – 41 10 10a

1941 10 11

Lloyd George inspects Queen's Messenger Convoy in King's Parade; consists of 13 vehicles ready to visit any area damaged by enemy action; are two water vehicles, two food vehicles, two kitchens, four canteens, a utility van for the staff of 30, W.V.S. kit van and W.V.S. staff canteen – 41 10 11

1941 10 13

YMCA mobile canteen started January 1940 with small Ford carrying urn of tea and buns, shaving equipment, writing paper & New Testaments required by troops; others added; go to airfield dispensing 25 gallons of tea – 41 10 13

1941 10 16

Serg Herbert 'Dick' Mansfield missing after operations – 41 10 16

1941 10 20

Women shoot with Home Guard – photo – 41 10 20a

1941 10 20

Bright light visible in Glisson Road on night when bombs were dropped – 41 10 20b

1941 10 21

Worker damaged aircraft with hammer – sabotage – 41 10 21a

1941 10 30

Rumours that high Nazi official had parachuted into Cambs denied; one of our bombers returning from Germany found itself in difficulties and two crew bailed out; Home Guard called out – 41 10 30a

## **1941 November**

1941 11 19

Cambridge traders affected by many wartime regulations; Chamber of Commerce will assist those suffering from air raid – 41 11 19a

1941 11 27

HMS Loyal warship week programme – 41 11 27, 41 11 29

## **1941 December**

1941 12 01

Warship week provided one of most inspiring parades ever seen; a score of contingents took part – 41 12 01

1941 12 08

Mayor Montagu Butler in serious accident during civil defence exercise; knocked down by ARP Ambulance – 41 12 08

1941 12 11

WVS open-air cooking demonstration, New Square – 41 12 11

1941 12 18

Women make camouflage netting; two-hour shifts of 50 women work till 10pm – 41 12 18

1941 12 19

P.c.'s Heroism. — "Although warned of the danger of unexploded bombs, P.c. Haynes persisted: in going to the aircraft, where he did splendid rescue work, which resulted in the saving of valuable lives." These words are contained in a commendation by the Royal Air Force of P.c. Albert Haynes, of the Cambridge Division, for gallant conduct and exemplary behaviour when a British aircraft crashed and caught fire. His heroism was reported by the County Chief Constable (Mr. W. H. Edwards). The Chairman (Mr. W. C. Jackson) said the highest commendation was due to P.c. Haynes for his courageous attitude in saving the lives of several airmen. 41 12 19 CIPof

## 1942

### 1942 January

1942

Our parks in wartime – pictures show how public demand for allotments is being met. The Lammas Lands at Newnham are now being dug over by men and women to help in the ‘grow more food’ campaign. In another part of the same park is a spacious slit trench to hold four people where excavation cannot exceed two feet – 113.23

1942 01 05

Cambridge Spitfire ready to take to the air – photo – 42 01 05

1942 01 09

Hard fighting in Malaya – 42 01 09

1942 01 12

Cambridge fire guard organisation – duties of street parties – 42 01 12, 12a

1942 01 13

YWCA Hostel appeal launched – hostels needed for girls in services; for 15 years the club in St Columba’s Church had done splendid work; quite often the warden would be woken up at two in the morning by a policeman with some very weary girls who had missed their last train and had nowhere to sleep. The hall was full of camp beds which, although not luxurious, were better than nothing – 42 01 13

1942 01 22

Heavy fighting in West Malaya – 42 01 22

1942 01 24

Adoption of HMS Loyal following warship week campaign – 42 01 24

1942 01 31

Battle of Singapore begins – hold fortress till help comes – 42 01 31 & a

### 1942 February

1942 02 02

Japs massing against Singapore – 42 02 02

1942 02 03

Japs dive-bomb Singapore – 42 02 03

1942 02 03

William Brown of Cross Street missing for 18 months and reported killed – 42 02 03a

1942 02 04

'Great Reinforcements' – Wavell; order of the day to Singapore – 42 02 04

1942 02 05

More Singapore dive-bombing – 42 02 05

1942 02 06

Cambridge leave hostel for serving women opened Rose Crescent – 42 02 06a

1942 02 06

Intermittent Singapore shelling – 42 02 06

1942 02 07

Singapore city shelled – 42 02 07

1942 02 09

Mopping-up Singapore invaders – 42 02 09

1942 02 10

More landings at Singapore – 42 02 10

1942 02 11

British Singapore counter-attacks – 42 02 11

1942 02 12

Jap tanks press Singapore line – 42 02 12

1942 02 13

Singapore: severe Jap pressure – 42 02 13

1942 02 14

Strong Jap attacks at Singapore – 42 02 14

1942 02 17

The Cambridgeshires were in Malaya ... gallant fight, waiting for news – 42 02 17a

1942 02 20

New Cambridge YWCA Hostel opened for women in forces – 42 02 20

1942 02 21

Tank exhibition at Central Library – 42 02 21c, d

1942 02 24

Women's war work bureau set up in Eaden Lilley's store – 42 02 24

## **1942 March**

1942 03 03

King Peter and Queen Marie of Yugoslavia visit Cambridge – photo – 42 03 03

1942 03 04

Cambridge Home Guard platoon 6 of 5th Battalion – group photo - 42 03 04

1942 03 12

Council take over Pitt Club as British Restaurant – detailed review 42 03 12

1942 03 14

Civil Defence Committee consider invasion plans; will be shelter provision for 26,000; Coleridge Road and Lammas Land recreation grounds to be cultivated for foodstuffs; flower-growing to stop at Cherry Hinton Hall – 42 03 14

1942 03 16

Cambridge men in Malaya posted as 'missing' – photos – 42 03 16a, 42 03 25, 42 03 27, 42 03 30, 42 04 01, 42 04 04, 42 04 10, 42 04 11, 42 04 13, 42 04 14, 42 04 16

1942 03 28

Missing in Malaya. Many Cambridgeshire families have received this week official intimation concerning husbands and sons who were serving in Malaya up to the fall of Singapore. In all cases the notification has stated that there is at present no news of the man concerned, and for the time it is necessary to post him as "missing." Most of the official notices concern men serving with the Royal Engineers, and amongst these are two brothers, Sergeant William Turkentine and Sapper Allan Turkentine, sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Turkentine of 34 Albert Street, Cambridge 42 03 27 CIPof

## **1942 April**

1942 04 13

Ministry of Transport order makes bus queues compulsory when six are waiting – local effects – 42 04 13a

1942 04 13

Girls as plane-spotters with Royal Observer Corps – first in area – 42 04 13b

1942 04 13

Need for inquiry into Singapore capitulation – whole youth of Cambridge thrown into places without even a fighting chance and whole population of East Anglia profoundly shocked – letter H. Bowles, AEU – 42 04 13b

1942 04 17

First News after Singapore. News from a member of the Cambridgeshires who was at Singapore when it fell on February 15 reached Cambridge on Saturday. Mrs. Bagstaff, of 107 Suez Road, received an airgraph letter dated March 7 from her husband, C.S.M. Bagstaff, of the 2nd Battalion, now in

hospital at Karachi. In the mistaken belief that she might have received the worst news, he says: "I first of all wish to tell you to ignore the cable saying that I am 'missing, believed killed'. As you can see, I am safe, and although in hospital, am reasonably well." Other extracts from the letter are: "I have not been wounded, but was the victim of shell-shock." "I have almost recovered now, but am deaf in my left ear. I lost every item of kit that I had in Singapore and Malaya. Please do not worry. The names and photographs of more than 70 local men missing after the Singapore episode are published 42 04 17 CIPof

1942 04 25

Lammas Land used for allotments – photo – 42 04 25

1942 04 25

31 12-person shelters approved at cost £19,297 – 42 04 25 TT

## **1942 May**

1942 05 02

Fire watching compulsory – 42 05 02

1942 05 02

Herbert Morrison speaks – 42 05 02

1942 05 06

Ford Emergency Food Van presented by Cambs Motors, will cook for families affected by enemy action – 42 05 06

1942 05 09

What to do in event of invasion – 42 05 09

1942 05 11

Letter from Cambridgeshire man with Royal Engineers at Singapore, hint of light casualties – 42 05 11a

1942 05 14

Home Guard two years old; its past & future – 42 05 14a

1942 05 15

"Invasion" Test.—Cambridge is to be the centre of an important "invasion" exercise this weekend. The public, however, unlike the recent exercise at Plymouth—are not to take a direct part in the exercise, which will last from 8.30p.m. on Saturday to 11 a.m. on Sunday. The "picture" of the exercise is that invasion by the enemy is presumed to have started and that enemy forces are approaching Cambridge. Such an attack would carry heavy air raids on Cambridge itself. Military and Home Guards are taking part in attack and defence, and members of the Civil Defence Services in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire will be actively participating. The public are warned that in the course of the night there will probably be "unusual sounds," with "bombing," and planes may be used. 42 05 15 CIPof



1942 05 20

Birdwood Club for dependents of service people, children garden in Portugal Place – photo – 42 05 20

1942 05 21

News of Shenton Thomas, Governor of Singapore, son of former vicar of St Barnabas – letter – 42 05 21b

1942 05 22

Drowned in the Cam. A young soldier from an anti-aircraft, unit was drowned in the Cam during the course of exercises on Wednesday afternoon. The deceased was Lance Bombardier Jack Harpin, whose home was at Heckmondwyke, Yorkshire, The accident occurred near a bridge, and other soldiers, as well as members of college boat crews, who were training nearby, dived several times before the body was recovered. Artificial respiration was tried, but without success 42 05 22 CIPof

1942 05 29

Prisoners at Singapore. An interesting reference to the treatment of prisoners in Singapore is contained in a letter which Mrs. E. J. Harper, of 28 Abbey Walk, Cambridge, has received from Mrs. Pringle, mother of Lieut. Alastair Pringle, of the Royal Engineers, who was taken prisoner at the same time as Major Harper. After expressing pleasure that her son has the company of Major Harper, Mrs Pringle goes on: "Now I have good news to give you. I had a letter from Ted Furse's mother this week, and she has had word from the father of a man who escaped twelve days after the fall of Singapore that the prisoners were being well treated up to the day he left and that all were at work repairing the damage that had been done. It is a blessing that they have got something to pass the time. How they will each react to this captivity I do not know, and we must just hope for the best. It is very comforting in the meantime to have this news." 42 05 29

## **1942 June**

1942 06 04

Madrigals on river, one of few surviving May Week events – 42 06 04a

1942 06 12

University dispatch riders the 'eyes and ears' of Regional Commissioner; during raids on Norwich they gave assistance Civil Defence Services; formed at outbreak of war – photo – 42 06 12b

1942 06 15

United Nations day in Cambridge – march down Market Street – 42 06 15c

1942 06 19

King and Queen Tour Fens - Their Majesties the King and Queen on Saturday paid a visit to reclaimed fen land in Cambridgeshire, and saw for themselves the magnificent work that is being carried out by the Cambs War Agricultural Executive on the vital food front. Indeed the whole five thousand acres at Swaffham Prior Fen and Adventurers Fen, Burwell is nothing more nor less than a battlefield where men and women, armed with the latest weapons of agriculture, are carrying out relentless warfare against rushes, scrub, bog oaks and flooding. Considerably more than half the 5,000 acres was derelict in 1939; the remainder produced only moderate crops . . . During their visit their Majesties travelled over miles of new concrete roads through Reach to Adventurers Fen, Burwell where they embarked on barges at Cock Up Bridge on Burwell Lode, which runs through artificial

banks above the level of the fen. While the barges were sailing down the Lode demonstrations of blasting bog oaks by explosives were given, 42 06 19

King visits Swaffham Fen, Priory Farm, sees land reclamation, Land Army 42 06 27 TT

King and Queen meet Land Army girls at Priory Farm, Burwell, Swaffham Fen – 42 06 15, 15a-b

1942 06 26

Second son to fall. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs Carse, of 5 David Street, Cambridge, who have recently received news that their second son, Gunner Arthur George Carse, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, has been killed in action. It is only about two months ago that another son, Sapper H. Carse, was killed. Gunner Carse had been in the Army about eight years, and had served in India for four years. When war broke out he volunteered for the Front, and went about 18 months ago. He was 26 years of age, and before he joined the Army was at Messrs, Robert Sayle's St Andrew's Street. 42 06 26 CIPof

1942 06 29

Home Guard parade on Parker's Piece, 3,500 men: Thousands of Cambridge people thronged the edge of Parker's Piece on Sunday to give testimony to the already recognised belief that there is nothing that draws the Englishman's attention like a military parade. The occasion proved not only the greatest event of its type we have seen in the town since the outbreak of war but, in addition, constituted — and not altogether unexpectedly — an achievement on the part of the local Home Guard that all may be proud of. Home Guardsmen, numbering 3,500, came from all over the county to take part, and to be inspected by Lieutenant-General K. A. N. Anderson. The military arrangements of the parade and march-past were carried out by the Commander, Cambridge Sub-Area, and staff— 42 06 29a, 42 07 03 CIPof – 113.32

## **1942 July**

1942 07 02

Air raid shelters – Anderson and Morrison shelters available for free issue from Guildhall – advert – 42 07 02

1942 07 02

Girls' Training Corps established, many in uniform – 42 07 02a

1942 07 04

News from Singapore, many families will be grateful – 42 07 04a

1942 07 06

Home Guard in Nazi uniforms – photo – 42 07 06

1942 07 06

Donald Foister of Napier Street returns after being Italian pow – 42 07 06a

1942 07 15

HMS Loyal ceremony at Guildhall as part of Warship Week – 42 07 15

1942 07 17

Newnham Legion Standard dedication. The newly-formed Newnham branch of the British Legion held their first parade. Members marched to St Mark's Church for the dedication of their standard which had been presented by their president, Dr Balfour Gourlay – photo - 42 07 17 / 113.48

1942 07 27

National Fire Service – women train at Homerton – 42 07 27

1942 07 28

*A single low-flying raider, clearly visible in the moonlight 'straddled' the Bridge Street – Sidney Street area with 11 h.e.s and many incendiaries. It was in this attack that the Germans made first use of their new explosive incendiary bombs, one of which caused a big fire at the Union Society. As a result of the raid three people were killed and seven injured; 10 buildings were demolished or rendered unsafe so they had to be pulled down, and 127 other properties were damaged to a lesser extent. The results of the attack would have been much worse but for the fact that three of the h.e.s failed to explode. One which fell through the roof of a house in Portugal Place came to rest on the hearth, immediately above a basement where the residents were sheltering. And one lodger who was still in bed awoke to see a bomb sticking through the party wall! – censored – 45 09 15 / 113.42b*

Lone raider's bombs – three killed, others injured, damage to business and houses [Union Society, Bridge Street] – 42 07 28, 28a, b / 113.60, 113.60a

Recent raid damage at Cambridge: bombs on Union Society; debating hall escapes; flying at less than a hundred feet and in full view of many people a German raider dropped HE and incendiary bombs. Main damage was done to the library, writing room, committee room and the lounge. Masonry which was flung about by the explosion burst through the roofs and all the windows at the front of the premises and overlooking Round Church Street were blown out. The debating hall was only very slightly damaged and that mostly by water. The end of the library received a direct hit from a small high explosive bomb and several fire bombs but the steel stacks in which the books were housed saved them from the effect of the blast. The collection of music books were lost. One stained glass window of the Round Church was blown in, otherwise the church escaped – 42 08 25, 42 08 25a / 113.35 [raid was July 28th]

1942 07 30

German raiders were active but no bombs dropped; considerable opposition from ground defences, hundreds in streets saw lively exchange of fire, tracer bullets could be seen in both directions. Later another single machine, flying at roof-top height was met with fire from ground – 42 07 30

1942 07 31

Lone raider's bombs on East Anglian town: photos of damage in a yard, wrecked buildings and charred timbers. Three killed and others injured. The dead were Mrs Rattle, Miss B. Johnson, a lodging house keeper, E. Nahum. Miss Johnson died on the way to hospital after an incendiary bomb crashed through the roof of her house. The more seriously injured include Pte K. Blight, Mrs Hunt and Miss Miller who were all in one house which received a direct hit. A well-known assembly room [Union Society] burned fiercely for some time. Premises damaged included those occupied by a local photographic club. – 42 07 31 CIP 113.101 & a

## 1942 August

1942 08 03

End of a raider – picture of German raider that fell in field – 42 08 03

1942 08 07

*High explosive and incendiary bombs hit the Chesterton and the Stourbridge Common area. The h.e. bombs were of the 250 k.g. type and incendiaries numbered about 700. Again both damage and casualties were remarkably light – censored – 45 09 15 / 113.42b*

Sharp attack on East Anglian town, few casualties; fire guards prove their worth; the most intensive raid, only four people slightly hurt. A few HE landed on open ground where they did not damage except to one cow that had to be destroyed. Many houses sustained direct hits from incendiaries but fire parties had the flames under control and NFS pumps were soon in action. Mr Story said he had just taken his young child from its cot when an incendiary crashed through the rafters and on to the empty cot. In another outlying part a 'bread-basket' of incendiaries fell in the road and damage by blast was caused to shop premises. Incendiaries were also scattered over other streets and little piles of sand testify to the efforts of the fireguards. Here and there a hole could be seen in the rafters of houses where bombs had scored direct hits. Charred window frames and little piles of scorched furniture outside were further evidence. One air raid warden returned home to find the house adjacent to his had been almost completely destroyed by fire. The new phosphorous bombs were also dropped. [700 incendiaries dropped Chesterton, Unicam factory, Stourbridge Common Newmarket Road, Ditton Fields] – 42 08 07

1942 08 07

Missing—now safe. We learn that W-Cdr. F.V. Benton of No. 2 The Westering, Meadowlands Estate, Cambridge, who was on June. 20 reported missing in Libya, is now safe. Mrs. Benton has received official notification that her husband has been located, and has also received a letter from him from a hospital in the Middle East. 42 08 07 CIPof

1942 08 08

Welcoming American troops. American troops expected - need suitable provision for reception of officers and men who visit Cambridge; Mayor forms committee. American Red Cross to provide facilities and Information Bureaux should be established – 42 08 08a / 113.102

1942 08 11

Retreat from Burman – letter from Driver B. Roberts, York Terrace – 42 08 11

1942 08 14

Cambridgeshire salvage campaign – at Rich's scrap metal yard, Coldham's Lane, metal is graded, magnetic crane; used for tanks – photo feature – 42 08 14, a,b / 113.103 & a

1942 08 15

Commando assaulted girls after Guildhall dance – 42 08 15

1942 08 17

Cambridge salvage stewards corps –volunteers needed for every street – list of names – 42 08 17

1942 08 17

Cambridge army of volunteers parade Parker's Piece; drumhead service – 42 08 17a / 113.24

1942 08 17

Four main schools close for summer holidays – poor response to scheme for voluntary attendance at school during holidays to counter-balance the dearth of holiday facilities in wartime – 42 08 17b

1942 08 18

Ant-aircraft guns – why they do not go off – co-operation with fighter command; sometimes guns act as ‘beaters’ for fighters or fighters ‘beat’ for guns; would also give raider detail of where they are – 42 08 18

1942 08 19

Cambridge’s second war-time nursery, Shirley School in prefabricated hut; for war-working mothers paying 1/- a day – 42 08 19

1942 08 20

Salvage drive feature – McGorian, waste paper merchant of Russell Street – 42 08 20

1942 08 21

Drumhead Service. A striking example of the volunteer spirit of the citizens of Britain was provided on Parker's Piece on Sunday afternoon, when members of Cambridge's many voluntary services paraded for a drumhead service. Volunteers all were assembled from the contingent of the Old Contemptibles, who kept the British flag flying in the early days of the last war, to the youths of the A.T.C, who will keep Britain's planes flying in the later days of this. A further venture of the Cambridge Borough Entertainments Committee the proof of its overwhelming success, was provided by the huge and enthralled crowd which thronged the Piece. It is estimated that parade and spectators numbered somewhere between 4,000 and 5,000. After the service there was a march-past by all the units on parade, the salute being taken by the County Member (Capt. R. G. Briscoe, M.C.). 42 08 21 CIPof

1942 08 24

Impressive anniversary service by local N.F.S. – photo – 42 08 24 / 113.33

1942 08 28

All the fun of the holiday fair: pictures of youngsters making the most of the holidays-at-home fair on Midsummer Common – 42 08 28 / 113.50

1942 08 29

German-born undergraduate imprisoned under Aliens Order – 42 08 29

1942 08 31

Making American troops feel at home. Old world greets the new. Making the Americans feel at home. As yet few of the visiting troops have been here long enough to get more than a few hours' leave and, naturally enough, they want as much sightseeing as possible ... but soon they'll want to spend time getting to know the folk in their own homes - do's and don'ts – 42 08 31, 42 09 04 CIP – 113.104 & a

1942 08 31

National Fire Service sports – the pump team from the Rathmore Road station secured top place in the drill completion out of over 100 teams from the area. The finals were contested at the N.F.S. sports on Magdalene College grounds, Milton Road and the team, which is made up of part-time men went through their drills faultlessly – 42 08 31 / 113.53

## **1942 September**

1942 09 04

Old world greets the new. Making the Americans feel at home. As yet few of the visiting troops have been here long enough to get more than a few hours' leave and, naturally enough, they want as much sightseeing as possible ... but soon they'll want to spend time getting to know the folk in their own homes – 42 09 04 CIP – 113.104

1942 09 08

Canadian canteen for Cambridge. Frederick Hudd delivering his address with Deputy Regional Commissioner and the Mayor, and Fire Force Commander W.E. Norwood. Mr Hudd shakes hands with Mr Norwood after handing over the vehicle – photos – 42 09 08 / 113.49

1942 09 09

German raider shot down by night fighter – Dornier crashed on a farm near a village; seven mobs on experimental farm, cottages damaged – 42 09 09a

1942 09 15

Cambridge University Air Squadron Cadets Parade passing out inspection – photos – 42 09 15 / 113.51

1942 09 17

Punts and canoes placed on NFS reservoir on lawn in front of King's – photo – 42 09 17a / 113.58

1942 09 19

Women to register for fire-watching duty – 42 09 19

1942 09 19

Photographic club meeting room Ram Yard damaged by bombs, move – 42 09 19a

1942 09 25

Did he escape from Singapore? Among the Cambridge men reported missing when Singapore fell was Sapper William Hall, of 178 King's Hedges Road, Cambridge. His wife has now received news from a Mrs. Harradine of 13 Owlstone Road, Cambridge, that her husband was amongst those who made their escape from the Japanese. It will be remembered that the escape of Mrs Harradine's husband. Lt. R. R. L Harradine was reported last March. Mrs. Harradine has now received a letter from her husband saying that Sapper Hall was with him when he got away from Singapore. Mrs. Hall, however, has heard nothing from her husband, and is endeavouring to get in touch with him 42 09 25 CIPof

1942 09 26

Singapore soldiers – some postcards arrive – 42 09 26

## **1942 October**

1942 10 03

Information Centre for American opens at Matthew's Café – 42 10 03

1942 10 06

Harvest Festival at the Leys School chapel – the first ever held there. There was a colourful array of fruit, flowers and vegetables and five guineas was collected by the nurses of Addenbrooke's for the China War Relief Fund – photo – 42 10 16 – 113.52

1942 10 10

Cambridge failed to reach 'Tanks for Attack' target – 42 10 10

1942 10 11

American forces' view of Cambridge – 42 10 11

## **1942 November**

1942 11 06

Call for more Nurses. A very large audience assembled at the Cambridge Guildhall to hear an appeal by Miss Florence Horsbrugh, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, for more women to take up nursing both nationally and locally. The occasion was a concert contributed to by distinguished artists, who gave their services for the Civilian Nurses Air Raid Victims Fund 42 11 06 CIPof

1942 11 07

Mrs Roosevelt, America's First Lady visits W.V.S. Services Hostel in St Andrew's Street – photos - and takes lunch in Arrington village hall - Mrs Roosevelt visits Cambridge, motors out to Arrington where lunches in village hall – 42 11 07 / 113.56, 113.97

1942 11 16

The African victory peals were rung by Ancient Society of Cambridge Youths. Mr J. Quinney and R. Lathbury were responsible for ringing at Roman Catholic Church, St Bene't's and Great St Mary's – photo – 42 11 16 / 113.54

1942 11 27

D.S.M. for Cambridge man. Mrs. Ellis, of 67 Cromwell Road, Cambridge, has just received news that her husband, W/Bombardier W. C. Ellis, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for gallantry in action and that he has been promoted L/Sergeant. Details of the exploit for which the honour has been awarded are not yet available. Formerly in the employ of Messrs. Cyril Ridgeon and Son. Sgt Ellis joined up at the outbreak of war. 42 11 27 CIPof

## **1942 December**

1942 12 14

Lord Woolton pays tribute scientists at the Low-Temperature Research Station for part in discovering best war-time foods – dried eggs, powdered milk and powdered meat – 42 12 14, 42 12 19

1942 12 28

American servicemen party for children at Bull Hotel – 42 12 28b

## 1943

### 1943 January

1943 01 06

US private shot 2nd-Lieut after dispute on length of sentry duty; evidence from Negro sentry – 43 01 06; sentenced to death – 43 01 07

1943 01 09

Japanese refuse letters to prisoners unless typed, CDN offers to help – 43 01 09 TT

1943 01 11

Mobile Operating Theatre attached to Red Cross Flying Squad – 43 01 11

1943 01 11

Mayor Montagu Butler's son kia – 43 01 11, 43 01 16a

1943 01 13

Hostel for civilian women stranded in Cambridge may be established – 43 01 13

1943 01 16

American concert party at Services Night, Rex Cinema – 43 01 16

1943 01 30

Harry Denton Hartle awarded medal after plane taken off from airfield crashed and burst into flames near home, lived Milton – 43 01 30

### 1943 February

1943 02 05

Sole survivor of Air Crash. Mr. John Howard, the young British diplomat, who was the sole survivor of an air liner crash in Peru last week, is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Howard, of 257, Chesterton Road. Cambridge. His parents on Friday received a cablegram from the hospital where he was taken, saying that there is no need to worry. Mr Howard, who is 28 years of age, was educated at the Perse School, and later at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, of which he is an M.A. He went out to South America about six months ago, and at the time of the crash was flying from Buenos Aires to Miami. News from Lima (Peru) described how Mr. Howard was catapulted from the back seat of the plane when the Liner crashed into a mountainside. The purser was sitting, with him, and was also thrown out but he died later from his injuries. For three days, it was stated, Mr. Howard lay injured beside the bodies of the victims before rescue services could reach him. The bodies of the 15 dead, who included three women and two other British diplomats, were taken to the Anglo-American Hospital at Lima. 43 02 05 CIPof

1943 02 10

Singapore prisoners of war – Col Clayton clarifies the position – cables arrive irregularly, only 10% names received – 43 02 10

1943 02 11

Alleged sabotage at aerodrome – tore up vital plans – Irish labourer sent for trial – 43 02 11a



1943 02 13

Bull Hotel formally handed over to American Red Cross as leave centre – 43 02 13

1943 02 16

Acute staff position. The acute position caused by the call-up of staff, was the subject of a special statement by the Chairman of the Cambridgeshire County Council (Ald. W. J. Taylor) at Saturday's meeting of the Council. Ald. Taylor said that, just before the war the staff operating from the Shire Hall - 30 men and 25 women. Of the men, 60 were serving with the forces, 15 were no longer with the council, and seven had been lent to other services. Only 48, therefore, of the original men were left, and of these 26 were over 42. Seventeen of the remainder were liable to be directed elsewhere by the Manpower Board, but only two were under 35 years of age. "We in Cambridgeshire, therefore, cannot be accused of 'protecting' a lot of young men from the services," the speaker added. Ald, Taylor next dealt with the women, and there was a general laugh after he said, "Two are married, and two are liable to be directed. Dr. Woodman asked "What — to marriage?" 43 02 16 CIPof

1943 02 19

Extermination of Jews deplored – 43 02 19a

1942 02 22

Pictorial impressions of the big parade – Wardens march past Kings, showing blacked out windows and water tank, Home Guard pass Fitzwilliam Museum, A.T.S. band pass Bull Hotel – 42 02 22, a-c

1942 02 22

Eastern region tribute to Red Army – memorable parade – 42 02 22d

### **1943 March**

1943 03 05

Non-petrol buses. — It is proposed to adapt 55 more Eastern Counties buses to producer gas in 1943. The Tilling group aim at converting 651 in all during the present year. Already they have adapted 107 including 26 of the Eastern Counties, and these had run 2,500.000 miles, so saving 415,000 gallons of important fuel. 43 03 05 CIPof

1943 03 12

Home Guard anti-gas instructors – photo – 43 03 12a

1943 03 15

Pitt Club British restaurant to allocate priority tickets for essential workers; colleges will feed 300 students for lunch daily during term which will eliminate their attendance – 43 03 15

1943 03 26

Model bulldogs guard gates of PoW camp for Italians – photo – 43 03 26

1943 03 26

Five sons in the Army. -Three Cambridge brothers, one in the R.A.O.C. and two in the R.A., met recently in the Middle East for the first time since early in 1940. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Brown, of 58, Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, who also have two other sons in the Forces and a daughter in the Red Cross. 43 03 26 CIPof

1943 03 30

Duchess of Gloucester tours Red Cross and St John war organisations, photos – 43 03 30, 31

## **1943 April**

1943 04 02

Death of Sir Havilland Hiley, The death occurred in a London nursing home on Tuesday of Sir Havilland Hiley, the Eastern Regional Traffic Commissioner. His home was at 14 Madingley Road, Cambridge, but he had been in London for a short time for medical treatment. In East Anglia, Sir Havilland was best known as Chairman of the Eastern Area Traffic Tribunal, with its headquarters at Sussex House, Cambridge, having been appointed when tribunals were set up all over the country in 1931. An acknowledged expert on transport matters, he gained, much of his early experience with the London and North-Eastern Railway, which he joined in 1891. (It was then the G.E.R.). He held responsible posts at York, Hull and Newcastle and, from 1905-8 was Passenger Member of the Great Northern Railway in London. 43 04 02 CIPof

1943 04 09

American soldiers took jeep and fired sub-machine gun in orderly room of headquarters – 43 04 09

1943 04 10

Cambridge radio broadcast to Middle East Forces – list of contributors – 43 04 10

1943 04 12

Bringing bombers back to earth – work of the Flying Control during fog or when damaged – 43 04 12

1943 04 14

Construction of airfields – problems addressed – 43 04 14

1943 04 16

Masque café, All Saints' Passage accused of waste of food – 43 04 16

1943 04 21

John Arthur Fenner, Panton Street, awarded George Medal for moving ammunition train from danger in North Africa – 43 04 21

## **1943 May**

1943 05 01

Vera Lynn & Wilfred Pickles in Cambridge for ENSA – 43 05 01 TT

1943 05 01

Announcement that undergraduates need not in future wear caps with their gowns on academical occasions is no surprise. For some time there has been trouble in getting material – 43 05 01

1943 05 03

Polish president addresses Senate House – 43 05 03

1943 05 13

South Cambs RDC plaque to commemorate adoption of HMS P57 during warship week – 43 05 13

1943 05 14

American baseball match on Fenners – first seen – 43 05 14

1943 05 17

Cambridge pays tribute men of First Army to celebrate victory in North Africa – 43 05 17

1943 05 21

Home Guard parade celebrate third anniversary, one of biggest Cambridge has ever seen: The General Officer, Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command; Lt.-Genl. J. A. H. Gemmell, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., took the salute at Cambridge on Sunday at one of the biggest military parades the town has ever witnessed. The parade, which had counterparts all over the country, was in celebration of the third anniversary of the founding of the Home Guard, and over 4,000 Home Guard from Cambridge and district were present. The scale of the proceedings can be judged by the fact that the march past the saluting base alone took more than 40 minutes. To use the official wording, the occasion "was designed to show the Home Guard to the people." Genl. Gemmell said, after an inspection: "I would like to . . . congratulate the battalions and other detachments on the parade. The turn-out has been good, arms drill quite creditable and everyone has stood firm and steady, which is a credit to you all." 43 05 21 CIPof – picture of early days – 43 05 17a, b

1943 05 26

Queue outside Guildhall for ration books – photo – 43 05 26

## **1943 June**

1943 06

Big crowd for madrigal singing on the river – photos – 113.61

1943 06 07

Painting of an aircraft in flight, autographed by British and American service men has been subject of a competition in aid of Prisoners of War Fund at Eagle in Bene't Street. Other men have covered wiling with lipstick or lighter flame records of their own units – 43 06 07

1943 06 09

Cambridge aid for China - Arts Roof Garden party supports Aid to China fund – photos - 43 06 09, a / 113.62

1943 06 18

"Going to be a bit late Home," -The following message was sent by Second Lieut. Charles Roland Brown, T190473 (a prisoner of war) to his wife, Marjorie Dodd Brown, 31 Trafalgar Road, Cambridge, over the German radio: "Hello, Marjorie darling. I am afraid I am going to be a bit late home. Complications seem to have arisen, so I thought I would spend the time in Germany. It is really a pretty country ... But even though I am far away, my body will be absent, but you will have my heart. Remember the Browns always smile. The German frauleins are pretty, but I am socially confined, so you don't have to worry." 43 06 18 CIPof

1943 06 22

Jitterbug contest at Rex – photo – 43 06 22

1943 06 22

Evacuee mother neglected children, Doric St – 43 06 22a

1943 06 25

Liddiard's Garage demonstration of how 80,000 vehicles engaged on essential work may be kept running without calling on motor manufacturers for spare parts and replacement – welding – 43 06 24

1943 06 29

Queue for horse meat for pets in Wheeler Street – photo – 43 06 29

### **1943 July**

1943 07 02

RDCs have adopted submarine 'Universal' – ceremony – 43 07 02a

1943 07 02

New nursery for 50 children opened at Ditton Fields – third day nursery – 43 07 02; an example to whole country – 43 07 02b; photo – 43 07 19

1943 07 03

"When you arrive in Cambridge" guide for American servicemen – 43 07 03b

1943 07 05

Duchess of Gloucester inspects parade 300 members Land Army at Cambridge. Women's Land Army Parade. Nearly 300 members of the Women's Land Army from the County of Cambridge paraded before the Duchess of Gloucester at a W.L.A. rally at Cambridge on Saturday afternoon. Clad in their distinctive green and fawn uniforms, the women made an impressive sight as they marched through the town from Parker's Piece to the Guildhall, where the Duchess presented awards for good service. Her Royal Highness wore a summer dress in pink and white, with a white summer hat and gloves to match. 43 07 05, 43 07 09 CIPof

1943 07 06

Kendal Way children help Red Cross – named photo – 43 07 06

1943 07 08

Salute to China, 7th year – 43 07 08

1943 07 13

Far East prisoners' postcards arrive – names - 43 07 13, 43 08 06. 43 08 16, 43 08 26

1943 07 15

"Combined Operation." Opening a farmers' gift sale at the Cambridge Cattle Market yesterday, in aid of the Cambridgeshire Red Cross and St. John Fund, Lady Mountbatten, wife of the Chief of Combined Operations, said: "This sale, I am sure, is going to be one of the most successful 'combined operations' we have seen." Farmers for miles around gave livestock — ranging from cows to kids —

to be sold for auction for the Red Cross and St. John Fund. And hundreds of farmers turned up to buy what was on sale. Not that the auction was confined to animals; far from it. There were also bottles of whisky and champagne, as well as one ton of sulphate of ammonia from Swaffham Prior, to be sold.  
43 07 16 CIPof

### **1943 August**

1943 08 03

Cyclist killed in collision with tank, one of a number in a big convoy in a Polish unit in Lime Kiln Road – 43 08 03

1943 08 16

Fire guards – new plan, to work with N.F.S. to combat fires caused by hostile attack and summon assistance – 43 08 16a

1943 08 20

Awarded D.F.M. A former member of the Cambridge Borough Police Force, Sergt. Douglas Alaric Boards, R.A.F., whose mother lives at 80 Radegund Road, has been awarded the D.F.M. for his part in saving a burning bomber – 43 08 20 CIPof

### **1943 September**

1943 09 04

Motor coach loaded with Italian prisoners of war caught fire opposite Lady Margaret Road. Fortunately a N.F.S. fire tender was passing at the time and quickly put out the fire. Non one was injured – 43 09 04

1943 09 06

University Air Squadron receive picture of Flying Officer Kenneth Campbell, the squadron's first 'VC', the pilot of a lone Beaufort that carried out low level attack on German battle cruisers in Brest harbour' Was 'up' 1937-1939 43 09 06

1943 09 06

Observer Corps work – photo – 43 09 06a; area nerve centre in Cambridge – photos – 43 11 10a

1943 09 09

John Hilton the first Professor of Industrial Relations at CU making regular broadcasts called 'This and that' and writing weekly articles in the News Chronicle. At outbreak of war became Director of Home Publicity in Ministry of Information but stood down to return to broadcasting ... at Cambridge had a team of helpers, each an expert in his own subject and was custom to invite people from Government departments to give them lectures from time to time – 43 09 09; In 1942 approached by News of the World to do same thing for that newspaper and became Director of the News of the World Industrial Advice Bureau which at his death in August 1943 was renamed after him. Based in Cambridge it called on panel drawn from dozens of professors and continued till 1968 [Wikipedia]

1943 09 10

For War Prisoners. A novel mingling of age and youth took place at Chesterton Institution on Saturday afternoon, when the grounds were thrown open to the public for a garden fete in aid of the

Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund. The first event of its kind to be held there, it was an unqualified success, the total of £60 raised being £10 in excess of the target figure. – 43 09 10

1943 09 17

Wonders of the Flying Fortress – visit to Memphis Belle – 43 09 17

1943 09 17

“Wings for Victor” trophy presentation; includes five aircraft log books to be used in planes bought by Cambridge which will be returned after the war as a permanent memento – 43 09 17a

1943 09 25

RAF men injured at Bourn when large RAF Liberty Waggon thrown on its side, a taxi completely overturned – 43 09 25

### **1943 October**

1943 10 07

Car damaged by bombs dropped during weekend; were no casualties and little other damaged. The car was standing in a shed. [probably Roseford Road] – 43 10 07

1943 10 09

Club for transferred war workers to be established at 8-9 Petty Cury to provide canteen and recreational accommodation for men and women, including washing and ironing facilities. Will be open 10am-10pm; an attractive meeting and resting place for workers who have come from away – 43 10 09

1943 10 21

Civil Defence Reserve, Eastern Regional column inaugurated; HQ in a country mansion to go anywhere at moment's call – 43 10 21

1943 10 26

Duchess Visits Hospital. An addition to the programme arranged for the Duchess of Kent's visit to Cambridge on Tuesday afternoon was a call at the American Red Cross hostel at the Bull Hotel. Earlier, after visits to Addenbrooke's Hospital and The Leys Annexe, the Duchess had tea with workers in their canteen at the new Falcon Club in Petty Cury. Her Royal Highness chatted with hospital patients, workers and American soldiers at the U.S. hostel in the course of her tour. She was accompanied by Lady Rachel Davidson. During the Duchess's visit to the children's wards at Addenbrooke's the behaviour of the little ones was exemplary. 43 10 26, 43 10 29 CIPof

### **1943 November**

1943 11 01

Cambridge Corn Exchange venue for Barn Dance staged by American Red Cross for US forces' celebration of traditional American custom of Hallowe'en ... at one end a Guy Fawkes surrounded by straw ... dances consisted slow foxtrots and quicksteps to the famous American Flying Eagles band. Were crates of apples and pears from which the many dancers, numbering about 1,800 were at liberty to help themselves. Refreshments served free of charge by an American clubmobile – a canteen on wheelers – about 3,000 American doughnuts, 25 gallons of coffee and 30 gallons of cider, beside orange and lemonade. Pumpkins cut into faces grotesquely illuminated by candles ... 43 11 01

1943 11 02

Cheers from neighbours who had assembled in the street were the first warning that Mrs Coleman of 22, Fitzwilliam Street, had that her husband, Able Seaman Joseph Coleman had arrived home after being repatriated from Germany. He lost his arm when his submarine was sunk and was missing for four months. He brought good news for Mrs Shipp of 64, Howard Road, of her husband who was captured when his submarine, Starfish was sunk – 43 11 02

1943 11 05

*Two high explosive bombs of small calibre fell off Milton Road, causing damage to a house but no personal injuries. The rest of the 'stick' fell at Histon – censored – 45 09 15 / 113.42b*

1943 11 10

Captain A.C. Taylor talks about how the latest instrument of scientific warfare are combined to clear skies of enemy plants – fighter command, balloon barrage, AA guns, searchlights, linked by private telephone lines – 43 11 10

1943 11 20

Sir Oswald Moseley release from prison rally interrupted by University Labour Society – 43 11 20

1943 11 22

Cambridge adopted destroyer HMS Loyal engaged enemy convoy – 43 11 22; 43 11 29. A picture sent by L/Stwd W.D. Howard of 5, Sleaford Street who has accompanied the Loyal in much of her work – 119.34

1943 11 25

Scotney's butchers of Mill Road summoned for selling meat above maximum price and delivering food to Romsey Community Feeding Centre without proper paperwork – 43 11 25

1943 11 30

Cambridge visitors at U.S. bomber station. Home Guard members inspect US bomber 'Stump Jumper' – includes Lady Bragg, John Lowe (Ministry of Information), mayor A.L. Briggs, Miss Shankland (Director of American Red Cross Club, Bull Hotel) & Norman Higgins – photo - 43 11 30 / 113.66

## **1943 December**

1943 12 06

Queues outside Mothercraft Clinic, Willis Road, for toys made by the women whose children attend the clinic – photo – 43 12 06

1943 12 11

Suicide first-year student and naval cadet of Jesus College, found hanging – 43 12 11

1943 12 11

Cambridge Anglo-American Committee to organise Christmas party from Guildhall, part to be broadcast to US Forces – 43 12 11a

1943 12 20

Marshall's Flying School party for 400 children – 43 12 20

1943 12 28

King's college carol service broadcast – 43 12 28

1943 12 31

War-time Christmas. The sound of church bells in the still, cold air of the pre-dawn brought a reminder on Christmas morning that much has happened since the greatest of all festivals was celebrated a year ago. For many it was, inevitably in war, a time of sorrow, but beneath the cloud of sorrow could be seen the light of victory, bringing with it the hope and belief that 1943 may be the last Christmas of the war. With many of their loved ones away from home, scattered over the four corners of the earth, the people of Cambridge yet made the most of their celebrations. And in many homes absent places at the fireside were filled by other Service men and women, both British and American, who were offered that personal hospitality which means so much at Christmas tide. The Mayor and Mayoress of Cambridge, Ald and Mrs. W. L. Briggs, made a particularly full round of calls to hospitals etc on Christmas morning and afternoon, and it was well after tea-time when they made their way back to their own home. 43 12 31 CIPof

## **1944**

### **1944 January**

A Cambridge man who as a war-time brigadier helped in the planning of D-Day told some of the "inside story" to Cambridge Rotarians. Mr T.R. Henn of St Catharine's college said his own part was "of the very humblest". He took part in the planning of two invasions. The first was a completely paper one in 1942 when the Powers-that-be got together a small party of some eight majors and a brigadier and told them: "Look here, chaps, we're going back on the Continent some time or other. Assume you have the men, guns, ships and aircraft and tell us what you want". Eight months later they became part of the real invasion planning staff in London. After the 'Overlord' plan had been sent off to Washington he came up to Cambridge and walked into Bowes and Bowes bookshop. He picked up a new book which contained two maps showing zones they planned to use, but by then things had gone too far. CDN c 16.1.1952

1944 01 01

Prompt action at Magdalene Fire. Magdalene College fire in building now used as boiler room and store; the college pump brought into action, flames leapt through roof, extinguished by NFS – 44 01 01 / 113.22

1944 01 05

Prisoners in Far East – list of names – 44 01 05

1944 01 14

NFS exercises – photos – 44 01 14a

1944 01 21

Awarded Military Medal. Trooper E. D. Smith has been awarded the Military Medal. He is the only son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Jesse Smith, of 20 Queen's Meadow, Cherry Hinton. Before being called



up he was employed by Messrs Hallock and Bond at their warehouse in Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge. 44 01 21 CIPof

## 1944 February

1944 02 24

Dornier 217 crashes on allotments – 44 02 24, photos 44 02 25

Nazi raider's forced landing pm some allotments after skirting a thickly-populated area. Caught in a heavy barrage, the crew had bailed out over London and were unhurt. The plane flew on for 50 miles and made a perfect forced landing, coming to rest against the back fence of a house. RAF experts examine the machine and view of nose with a damaged propeller against one of the concrete posts that stopped it going into a private garden – photos – 44 02 25 / 113.39

## 1944 March

1944 03

*Montgomery and Eisenhower's visit in March 1944 had been secret; in spring the Union Society buildings stood closed and empty. Armed sentries stood at the doors; vehicles stole through streets and halted at threshold; mysterious packages were carried within. They were putting final touches to plans – censored - 46 10 11, 11a*

1944 03 25

'We Also Served' Home Guard history published – 44 03 25

## 1944 April

1944 04 03

YWCA Hostel in Lensfield Road opened – two roomy houses standing side by side; the old hostel in Rose Crescent outgrown; many hundreds had stayed in earlier years of the war. Can now accommodate 65 service women; 1,400, including Land Army have stayed. 44 04 03

## 1944 May

1944 05 08

Record crowd salutes the soldier – nearly 4,000 troops march past Fitzwilliam Museum – 44 05 08a / 113.55

War-time monsters on King's Parade 44 05 08

Old Glory was at Salute the Soldier parade – 44 05 08b / 113.92

1944 05 12

"Salute the Soldier" Campaign total subscribed was £866,870. A fine example has been set by the Cambridge schools, whose target was £5,000, and who, having already reached £5,181, have now been raised it to £10,000. The Week was effectively launched on Saturday afternoon, when Field Marshal Lord Ironside opened an attractive and interesting exhibition of war equipment in the Corn Exchange, Cambridge 44 05 12 [8.14]

1944 05 22

Undergraduate officer in Home Guard experimented in his room with drilling hand grenades and left a bomb filled with gun powder on his mantelpiece – inquiry into explosion at Home Guard post – 44 05 22

1944 05 25

Famous service chiefs at Madingley cemetery dedication, impressive ceremony – 44 05 25a, 44 05 30a, 44 05 31a / 113.91

## **1944 June**

1944 06 02

U.S. Military cemetery dedicated. Memorial Day — the day when Americans pay special honour to their dead— was marked in Cambridgeshire on Tuesday, with a service at the U.S. Military Cemetery (at Madingley). High ranking officers of the American and British Armies, as well as the R.A.F. were present together with leading civic representatives of the Eastern Region and the Town, University and County of Cambridge. A detachment of the British Legion, with their colours, members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society, and members of the W.V.S., who have undertaken to provide flowers for the chapel, were also among the large gathering. Centrepiece of the service was a small grass mound, rising from which flew the Stars and Stripes. The Bishop of Ely (Edward Wynn) walked to the mound from the little chapel, followed by the senior officers carrying wreaths. The ceremony opened with an invocation, followed by a scripture reading and a prayer for the fallen. An Order of the Day was read from the Allied commander-in-chief (Gen Eisenhower). During the service either by accident or design three Fortresses flew low over the company. Official and private wreaths were laid and the proceedings came to a close with the National Anthems of America and Britain, the Benediction by the Bishop of Ely and finally "Taps" by two buglers 44 06 02 CIPof [1.1]

1944 06 02

Ammunition trains blows up, station and town damaged, scores made homeless – 44 06 02; Three railwaymen save Soham – 44 06 03a

1944 06 12

Air raid shelters damaged and used for improper purposes; should not be used except during raids – 44 06 12

1944 06 15

Invasion stories by wounded at Leys Hospital annexe – 44 06 15

1944 06 15

Schoolboys set fire to cordite in air raid shelter, some hurt: Two schoolboys, who set light to some cordite in an air raid shelter and so caused burns to some other children, one of whom had to taken to hospital, appeared at juvenile court at Linton on Wednesday. They admitted stealing the cordite, the property of the War Department, valued at 1s. The boys, aged 12 and 13 respectively, were each given a good character, and after they had promised not to do anything the kind again, were placed on probation for two years – 44 06 15

1944 06 17

Nazis use pilotless aircraft in raids on Britain – 44 06 16; robot plane crashes on Hospital (not local) – 44 06 17

1944 06 26

Police carry out identity card check at Midsummer Fair, four arrested – 44 06 26

1944 06 28

Blazing truck load of bombs – inquest on Soham explosion – 44 06 28

### **1944 July**

1944 07 13

Fire guards from Newnham and Grange Road extinguish real incendiary bombs with stirrup pumps in exercise – 44 07 13

1944 07 15

Anglo-Soviet friendship committee send ambulance to Russia – 44 07 15

### **1944 August**

1944 08 18

Cambridge college as 'set' for R.A.F. film: 'Journey Together' film made by RAF for RAF features scenes in St John's College – 44 08 18a, b / 113.36

### **1944 September**

1944 09 12

Gas Company work on streetlights in anticipation of removal of blackout – 44 09 12

1944 09 13

OBE awarded to William Benton of Trumpington for action at exploding ammunition dump; another gets George Medal – 44 09 13

1944 09 20

Home Guard relax with bowls – group photo – 44 09 20

1944 09 22

Duchess's Visit. Members of the Rural Pennies Section of the British Red Cross Society were rewarded for their good work in connection with the Fund by a visit from their chairman, the Duchess of Marlborough at the Cambridge Guildhall on Wednesday afternoon, when a talk by the Duchess was followed by tea. The Duchess also visited the Cambridgeshire Red Cross Club, which is now situated at 22 St. Andrew's Street, and formally declared the club open. 44 09 22 CIPof

1944 09 23

Reuben Smith, Cambridge's oldest ex-soldier and ARP warden – funeral – 44 09 23

1944 09 26

When the lights came on again: scenes in Cambridge when lights turned on again under the partial relaxation of the blackout – Peas Hill, Trumpington Street, Pembroke Street – 44 09 26, 44 09 27 / 113.37. How it was done – 44 09 28

1944 09 27

Home Guard Officers conference – photo – 44 09 27a

## **1944 October**

1944 10 11

Underground petrol storage which were filled with water as an anti-invasion measure now being emptied and will be filled with petrol; soon lorries and cars will not have to queue for petrol at 'official' stations – 44 10 11

1944 10 18

Fire in returned ammunition dump in East Anglia shortly before D-Day; firemen braved bursting 'ammo'; saved most of the heaviest ammunition and prevented widespread devastation. Fire started among some stacks of small arms ammunition and rockets; put out within eight hours but NFS kept watch for some weeks – 44 10 18

1944 10 20

Ammunition stores broken into, rifle and ammunition stolen by Cambridge man – 44 10 20

1944 10 23

Myrtle Wright of Huntingdon Road talks of experiences in Norway and of resistance – 44 10 23

1944 10 26

Marshall's Flying School strike - 44 10 26a

## **1944 November**

1944 11 01

American troops celebrate Halloween at dance – 44 11 01

1944 11 01

Home Guard to stand down – poem – 44 11 01

1944 11 01

Royal Observer Corps – group photo – 44 11 01a

## **1944 December**

Anglo-American Club Christmas party to be broadcast [2.14]

1944 12 04

"Stand down" parade. The famous sword of Parker's Piece has been the scene of many historic ceremonies, but none, surely in what feelings of those taking part as principals or spectators have been

so mixed as on Sunday, when Cambridge saw her own part in the great Home Guard "stand down". After an impressive last parade, the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Home Guard marched away, conscious not only of the thanks of the King, but of the gratitude of their own fellow citizens. 44 12 04, 44 12 08 CIPof

1944 12 15

Legion Reject Home Guard. The admission of men of the Home Guard to the British Legion was strenuously opposed at the annual County conference of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely British Legion. When a resolution was put, recommending that the British Legion charter should be amended to enable Home Guards to be eligible for membership, only one present voted for it, and it was lost by an overwhelming majority 44 12 15 CIPof

## **1945**

### **1945 January**

Anglo-American Union. Married at Shire Hall – Miss F. Howard of Brandon Place & Corp. J. Blackwelder of Taylorsville, North Carolina – 113.106

1945 01 05

Minister praised efficiency with which NFS tackled fire Christ's College – flames coming through one of the oldest roofs 45 01 05

1945 01 12

Army Dentist. Among the men who arrived in England recently on compassionate leave from Burma was a Cambridge dentist, Capt. M. A. Freeman, who reached his home at Beechurst, Babraham Road, on Tuesday. One of the first things he found on arriving was a cable from his Commanding Officer, congratulating him on having been awarded the M.C. Capt. Freeman was reluctant to talk about his work with the Army Dental Corps in S.E.A.C. "Our troops out there are doing a marvellous job," was all he would say except to add: "Although they are sometimes known as the 'forgotten army' they don't feel quite so forgotten when they get bags of mail." His journey home occupied about six weeks, and the first 200 miles were covered over the mountains by jeep. Later came a week's travelling by train and the sea voyage 45 -1 12 CIP of

1945 01 16

Birdwood Club for dependents of those serving in Armed Forces; grown from 5 in 1940 to over 100 in 1944 - 45 01 16a

1945 01 24

Enemy action – 1,861 bombs and seven mines killed three civilians in 115 parishes – 45 01 24

### **1945 February**

1945 02 01

HMS Loyal Captain speaks at Rotary – was a 'L' class destroyer – 45 02 01

1945 02 17

Two rooms in a block at New Court, Trinity College, Cambridge, were severely damaged on Saturday by a fire which also destroyed valuable files and documents. One room, on the ground floor, was occupied by the Rural Land Utilisation Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the

other, on the first floor, by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), and it was in this second room that records of work done during the last three years was destroyed. Very heavy smoke, which spread by communicating passages and staircases to the offices of the Ministry of Fuel and Power in an adjoining block, was encountered by the N.F.S., but they succeeded in keeping the flames from spreading. Six fire appliances were in action, and an oxygen breathing apparatus were also used in fighting the outbreak 45 02 17, 45 02 23 CIPof

1945 02 23

Rescued from Japan. News has been received that local prisoners of war are among those listed as being rescued from a Japanese transport carrying them from, No. 4 Thailand Camp to Tokyo. They are Sapper G. F. Spurgin, eldest son of Mr. F. Spurgin, of 65 Greville Road, Cambridge. He was formerly employed by the L.N.E.R. as a fireman. Pte. A. G. Kitson, Royal Norfolk Regiment, husband of Mrs. E. L. Kitson, of King's Lynn. Before marrying and going to King's Lynn he lived at 1 French's Road, Cambridge. 45 02 23 CIPof

1945 02 23

Wounded Servicemen. — Another convoy of wounded servicemen, including a number of released prisoners-of-war, arrived in Cambridge on Wednesday. The men, 140 in number, have been distributed to Addenbrooke's, the Leys Annexe and the Examination Hall 45 02 23 CIPof

## **1945 March**

1945 03 09

Kit store supervisor – When the gunners go to war from the Middle East the man in whose safekeeping they leave their most treasured possessions (writes a Military Observer) is Gunner Alfred Barrett, whose home is at 28 Hope Street, Mill Road: Cambridge. He is clerk and supervisor at the kit store of the Middle East, B.D.R.A., and the largest military kit store out there. At the present moment he is helping to look after the baggage of many regiments, and over 5,000 miscellaneous kits in addition. "Batches" of letters from home, photos, watches and 'civvy' clothing, is what the boys are most anxious should be kept safely for them," Gunner Barrett said recently. Before the war he was college porter at Downing College. Cambridge. He joined the Army in October. 1940, and went out to the Middle East in July. 1942. 'He has served with the 53rd A/Tank Regiment, but went to B.D.R.A when he was medically downgraded. He is married and has two daughters, Anne, aged ten and Judith, seven. His mother is Mrs A.W. Barrett of 22 Derby Street, Newnham, Cambridge 45 03 09 CIPof

1943 03 15

Woman cyclist killed in Victoria Avenue, thought struck by trailer in American convoy – 45 03 15

1945 03 22

Disused brickworks in Coldham's Lane being used as Army motor cycle store damaged by fire but only nine of the several hundred machines inside were affected –45 03 22c

## **1945 April**

1945 04 09

Cambridge princess rescued from Japs – Mabel Phillips of Chesterton married undergraduate who now Swaba of Mongmit, of Burma; liberated by British troops – 45 04 09a

1945 04 12

Social centre for welfare of airmen and airwomen, built by YMCA presented to RAF station – 45 04 12

1945 04 19

‘Death March’ across Germany, prisoners tell grim stories – 45 04 19

1945 04 20

Award for Gallantry. The King has been pleased to approve the following award in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the air operations: D.F.C.: Acting Squadron-Leader Anthony White Farrell, A.F.C., 85281, R.A.F.V.R., No. 105 Squadron. Squadron-Leader Farrell has at all times shown great skill and ability as a pilot. He has displayed outstanding courage and determination during a large number of operational sorties. Many of these have been completed successfully against heavily defended targets in Germany and enemy occupied territory. His high standard of resource and gallantry has enabled his crew to attain valuable results. Acting Squadron-Leader Farrell was born in 1917 at Hampstead, and his home is at Cherry Hinton, Cambs. He enlisted in December, 1939, and was commissioned in September, 1940. He was awarded the A.F.C. in 1944. 45 04 20 CIPof

1945 04 24

American President Roosevelt memorial service, King’s chapel – 45 04 24

1945 04 26

Forced march ordeal – Arthur Rumsey, Shelford Rd, Trumpington – 45 04 26

1945 04 26

Vivid stories of prison camps – 45 04 26

## **1945 May**

1945 05 03

Jewish refugees should stay, says meeting – 45 05 03

1945 05 04

Wounded Servicemen. — Another convoy of wounded servicemen, including a number of released prisoners-of-war, arrived in Cambridge on Wednesday. The men, 140 in number, have been distributed to Addenbrooke's, the Leys Annexe and the Examination Hall. 45 05 04 CIPof

1945 05 08

Hostilities end at midnight, Prime Minister’s broadcast; King’s victory medal; flags of victory fly from Guildhall balcony – headlines – 45 05 08 / 113.100

1945 05 08

VE celebrations, Market Square, crowd of several thousand, waste paper dump in St Mary’s Passage set on fire, cars and stalls damaged, flag on top fountain, climb Guildhall clock – 45 05 08

1945 05 09 – VE Day

Happy crowds celebrate VE-Day – 45 05 09, 09a, Top fountain damaged – photo – 45 05 10. Crowds dance Market Hill – photo – 45 05 10

1945 05 11

Happy crowds celebrate VE-Day at Cambridge ... Midsummer Common bonfire draws thousands ...  
VE-night office-breaking, CDN editorial rooms ransacked – 45 05 11 / 113.27

1945 05 11

Victory bonfire night scenes – 45 05 11.

VE celebrations – 45 05 11a; Beaconsfield Hall children, Sturton St, Cowper Rd, Norwich St – 45 05 16; Perne Ave, Mowbray Road, Beche Rd, Norfolk St – 45 05 08; Hobart Rd, Bradmore St, Russell St – 45 05 19b; Young St, Gonville Road & Charles St, Cam Causeway, Gt Eastern St – 45 02 22a; Ditton Fields, Romsey Women Conservatives, Suez Rd, Covent Garden, Eden St – 45 05 23; York St, Thoday St, Kingston St, Northampton St, Cherry Hinton – 45 05 24; Hills Ave, City Rd, Cavendish Rd, Malta Rd – 45 05 25; Mowbray Rd, Willow Walk, Springfield Rd, Kelvin Close – 45 05 26b; New St, Chesterton High St – 45 05 28a; Cockburn St, Newnham Croft, Madras Rd, Henley Road & Coldham's Lane – 45 05 30; Barnwell, Wellington St, Fitzroy St, Devonshire Rd – 45 05 30b; children entertained Cherry Hinton, Fairfax Rd – 45 06 02; Vinery Rd, Eastfield – 45 06 04; Catherine St, Ditton Walk, Union Lane – 45 06 05; Gwydir St, Abbey (East) – 45 06 06; Meadowlands Estate, Argyle St, Hope St, De Freville Estate – 45 06 07; Ross St, Hemingford Rd, Green End Rd, Staffordshire St, Selwyn Rd, Coldham's Grove, Coldham's Lane, Akeman St – 45 06 11; Brooks Rd, Sedgwick St, Langham Rd, Oxford Rd, Haig Road, Chesterton – 45 06 13a; Windsor Rd, Stretton Ave, Kimberley Rd, Abbey Road, Walnut Tree Ave, Brookfields – 45 06 18; Trumpington, Mansfield Hall – 45 06 19; Cavendish Ave, Hinton Ave, Hope Hall for Deaf – 45 06 21a; Histon Rd children – 45 06 30; St Peter's St, Greens Rd – 45 07 10

1945 05 11

Gallantry. Lieut. S. G. Love, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Love, of 15 Burleigh Street, Cambridge, has been mentioned in dispatches for gallant and distinguished services in North-West Europe. Lieut Love is in the R.A.S.C. and is attached to the Armoured Division. 45 05 11 CIPof

1945 05 14

Thanksgiving service Gt St Mary's church – 45 05 14

1945 05 14

Dagenham girl pipers at final VE celebrations – 45 05 14aa

1945 05 19

Blast walls in front Emmanuel College demolished – photo – 45 05 19

1945 05 22

National Fire Service – 500 part-time men and women parade, Parker's Piece for stand-down; thanked for work – 45 05 22

1945 05 25

Stack Fires. On Tuesday the N.F.S. were called out to deal with numerous stack fires outside Cambridge, mainly caused by VE-Day celebrations. The areas affected were Bourn, Toft, Gransden, Linton, Foxton, Wrestlingworth and Comberton. In some villages watch was kept by the N.F.S. to prevent the fires from spreading 45 05 25 CIPof



1945 05 25

Local P.O.W, Gunner E. C. Prevett, R.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Prevett, of 182 Newmarket Road, has returned home after three years in captivity. He was captured Tobruk in July 1942, and was in an Italian P.O.W. camp until Italy capitulated when he was transferred to Stalag 4C, whence he was liberated. Another Cambridge man has this week returned home from a German P.O.W. camp. He is Brd. J. Andrews, of 59 Ross Street, and has been a prisoner for nearly three years, being liberated from Stalag 18A. Previous to the outbreak of war he was in business with his uncle, Mr. W. Bell, butcher, of Ross Street. H.A.V. Clark, of 8a George IV Street, Cambridge, has returned home from Stalag XXB. He was taken prisoner on May 23 1940 at Boulogne. He is known as Nobby the Cook. News has been received by Mr. A and Mrs. Gurner, of 19 Willow Place, Cambridge, that their son, Sapper B. Gurner has arrived in England, and will be shortly at home. He was in Stalag 344 and was a prisoner five years 45 05 25 CIPof

1945 05 25

Charles Circuit, Holbroke Road tells of life in Italian and German prison camps – 45 05 25

1945 05 26

Farewell party of No.4 Regional Column of the Civil Defence Reserve at Newton Hall; established two years ago has 15,000 Civil Defence workers, attended 400 incidents; undertook rescue work and tackled flying bombs and rockets, help with ambulance trains and returned prisoners of war. IN 12 months 570 groups of Civil Defence personnel had gone from the Regional camps and of these 386 groups, representing 12,000 men had gone to air raid damage in the region. Thousands of pounds have been recovered and in one town £3,000 found at one house was handed over. Much valuable property salvaged. Regional Commissioner to resign soon – 45 05 26a

1945 05 30

Home Guard pay tribute to American airmen at Madingley cemetery – 45 05 30a

1945 05 30

Madingley Road factories – was essential that Sebro should be built at the most convenient point for the surrounding aerodromes. The building, working and running of the factory meant a great deal of energy and terrific amount of worry; when built was one of a chain of shadow factories; repaired bombers; was built in wrong place from workers' point of view – should have been built near backs and then Trinity could have been used as a hostel, saving long journeys to work. That part of Madingley Road is hardly a beauty spot – letters – 45 05 30b

## **1945 June**

1945 06 01

Award for Gallantry. The many friends in Cambridge and the County of Lieut-Col. F. N. Drake Digby (former C. O. of the Cambridgeshire Regt.) and of Mrs. Digby of 20 Fendon Road, will learn with interest and pleasure that their only son has received an award for gallantry in Burma. The official notification reads: The King has been pleased to approve the following award for distinguished and gallant services in Burma— D.S.O. Major (Temporary) Anthony Sergeant Drake Digby, 66273, the Suffolk Regiment, Cambridge. Before the war Major Digby had adopted the stage as his profession, and many local playgoers will remember that he appeared at the Arts Theatre, Cambridge, in "French Without Tears", a fellow player in the cast being Richard Greene, who soon afterwards went to Hollywood and has since become a well-known film star. 45 06 01 CIPof

1945 06 08

Secret jobs by Labs & Pye – Radiolocation – Ground Control of Interception designed and built by University Cavendish scientists in conjunction Pye engineers – put fighters at right height on tail of enemy aircraft near enough to pick them up on Airborne Interception equipment – 45 06 08

1945 06 08

Mayor entertains returned Prisoners of War – 45 06 08a

1945 06 08

Distinguished Service. Captain Reginald Carter, R.A.O.C., husband of Mrs. R. Carter, of 28 Windsor Road, Cambridge, has been mentioned in despatches for "distinguished service." At the time of being mentioned, Capt. Carter was serving in Italy, where he still is - 45 06 08 CIPof

1945 06 13

Folk Museum new home – Lord Fairhaven offers Abbey House in recognition of VE Day – 45 06 13

1945 06 15

Birthday Honours. Two names of local interest appear in the list of King's Birthday Honours announced today. They are those of Prof. C. E. Inglis, F.R.S., lately Professor of Mechanical Sciences at Cambridge University, who becomes a Knight, and Mr. S. O. Chivers, a director of the Histon firm of Messrs. Chivers and Sons, who has been awarded the C.B.E.. Well-known in Cambridge for his great interest in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Mr. S. O. Chivers receives the CBE as Hon. Technical Advisor to the Ministry of Food on Fruit and Vegetable Products. In 1942 he went to America for the Government on important work, and for this was attached to the British Food Mission. A member of the General Committee of Addenbrooke's, he is also chairman of the Maintenance Fund Committee. 45 06 15 CIPof

1945 06 20

Evacuees go back – cheery picture at Cambridge railway station –45 06 20

1945 06 21

25 German Prisoners of War at work on Lichfield Rd housing site; the 100 temporary houses will be pre-fabricated 'Unisee' type – photo – 45 06 21

1945 06 26

Queens Messenger convoy at garage at Trumpington before leaving to do welfare work for troops – photo – 45 06 26

1945 06 27

Cambridge and the balloon barrage: war work at the Gas Works – were 2,400 balloons. In 1940 supply of hydrogen became difficult and Cambridge approached as to facilities available such as blue water gas and steam or existing plant such as purifiers and gasholders. Was one of 19 sites selected and production hydrogen started early 1942, producing enough for 8,000 balloons. They brought down enemy aircraft over an East Anglian city. Output increased due large number balloons required for the flying bombs. Loads of long round steel cylinders on long trailers carried them. Ascents from Midsummer Common before the last war needed gas supplied from the Newmarket Road works by a main specially aid for the purpose. Recently have made nitrogen of very high degree of purity for Air Ministry – 45 06 27

1945 06 30

Cambridge had 419 air raid alerts during war according to E.A.B. Barnard – details by year –45 06 30; figures disputed – 45 07 02a

## **1945 July**

1945 07 02

Farewell parade of Special Constabulary, Civil Defence and Fire Guard Services, Parker's Piece –45 07 02

1945 07 03

'War against Japan' exhibition at Cavendish Laboratory – 45 07 03 / 113.105 & a

1945 07 09

Civil Defence services of county farewell ceremony, Shire Hall – 1,600 high explosives had fallen and hundreds of incendiaries – 45 07 09

1945 07 07

Cambridge camp shooting drama. Woman shot through heart by coloured sentry at American camp in Milton Road; said she had spent the night in the camp, called guard names, refused to stop – 45 07 07  
Two girls slept in Home Guard hut opposite American camp on Milton Road, had blankets got from an American – 45 07 11/ 113.106

1945 07 16

Special constables stand down – photo – 45 07 16

## **1945 August**

1945 08 02

Presentation Freedom Borough to USAAF – Unique Freedom ceremony; historic scenes at Guildhall and Market Place. King greets U.S. President – photo of Market Hill;– 45 08 02, a & b / 113.72, 72a  
Crowds celebrate - 45 08 03

1945 08 04

Award. The King has been pleased to approve the following award for gallantry and skill and marked devotion to duty in air strikes in the Far East: D.S.C.—Temp. Lieut. (A) Richard Henry Reynolds, R.N.V.R.—Cambridge.' 45 08 04 CIPof

1945 08 07

Atomic blitz on Japan planned – front page – 45 08 07aa

1945 08 07

Cambridge real 'home' of Atom bomb: early work at Cavendish Laboratory; four members of Technical Committee from Cambridge – 45 08 07 / 113.94  
Details - 45 08 11

1945 08 08

Hiroshima: a disastrous ruin. All living things seared to death. Tokyo says dead are uncountable – front page – 45 08 08 – 113.93

1945 08 15

How Cambridge heard the great victory news, Market Hill scenes at declaration, spontaneous revelry Parker's Piece – 45 08 15, a / 113.95

1945 08 15

Problem of the colour bar; American Red Cross Director plea for education so that white and coloured people may learn more about one another – 45 08 15 / 113.110

1945 08 16

Victory night of revelry on Parker's Piece – 45 08 16

1945 08 17

Combined Parade. Cambridge was well presented on Sunday at Bury St Edmunds when 1,500 troops of the Suffolk Regt., the Beds, and Herts. Regt., the A.T.S., and the General Service Corps, together with members of the 4th Cadet Batt., Suffolk Regt. took part in a combined parade. The occasion was the commemoration of Minden Day and Blenheim Day. At the Battle of Minden on August 1, 1759, the 12th Foot (the Suffolk Regt.) picked roses as they pursued the retreating French, while the Battle of Blenheim — August 13, 1704—is one of the battle honours of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. There were several old veterans on parade among them being Lieut. Mr. William Taylor, of Cheveley, near Newmarket, who is 80 years old, and who holds the Hazara. In command of the parade was Lieut-Col. G. A. Anstee, M.C., commanding No. 3 Infantry Training Centre, and as they were brought on parade, the .colours of both regiments, those of the Suffolk Regiment being the oldest in the British Army, were received with the royal salute, for which the bands of both regiments played. The service was conducted by the Archdeacon, of Sudbury, the Ven. H. R. Norton, formerly Assistant, Chaplain General Eastern Command, and the Rev. J O. V Hogarth, Chaplain to No 3 I.T.C., and the lessons were read by Col Nicholson and Brigadier Foss. Afterwards, there was the impressive ceremony of trooping the colours of the Suffolk Regiment, and the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment which were then formed up for the troops cadets and old soldiers to march past. The ceremony, which took place at Gibraltar Barracks, was watched by a large gathering of townspeople. 45 08 17 CIPof

1945 08 18

Victory joy sweeps world – front page –45 08 18a

1945 08 22

How Cambridge entertained Americans – Supervisor of Hospitality for American Red Cross at Bull hotel; problems of arranging hostesses for some of the shy lads, one wanted to see polo ponies, 'good-time boys' – 45 08 22 / 113.111

1945 08 24

Award for Gallantry. The King has been pleased to approve the following award for gallantry, resource and devotion to duty while serving in H.M.S. Clyde. 'In six patrols in the last year H.M.S. Clyde has carried out eight special operations under hazardous conditions, in the Far East: Mentioned in Despatches. Leading Stoker Tom Bosworth, P/KX, .90,104 (Cambridge). 45 08 24 CIPof

1945 08 25

Lieut. Richard H. Reynolds of Suez Road wins medal fighting Japs in Pacific – 45 08 25

1945 08 29

VJ Parties – Eden St, Cherry Hinton Rd, Chestnut Grove – 45 08 29; Queen Edith's Way, Ditton Fields – 45 09 04; Young St, Petworth St, Geldart St, Marshall Rd – 45 09 04; Darwin Drive, Stretton Ave, Victoria St, Hobart Rd, Adam & Eve St – 45 09 07b; Gloucester St, Castle St, Ashfield Rd – 45 09 10; Gilbert Rd, King's Hedges Rd, Ditton Fields – 45 09 11; Lichfield Rd, Cromwell Park estate, Hawthorn Rd – 45 09 12; Catharine St, Kendal Way – 45 09 14; York St & York Terrace, Brooks Road, Gold St – 45 09 17d# Bateson Rd, Garden Walk, Argyle St, St Philip's Rd, Sedgwick St, Holbrook Rd, Mowbray Rd – 45 09 18; Akeman St, James St, Parsonage St, Vinery Rd, Kingston St, Kingston St, Mowbray Rd, Hurst Park Estate – 45 09 20; Eastfield, New St, Kelvin Close – 45 09 24a; Hertford St, St John's Rd, Norwich St, Alpha Terrace, Sherlock Rd – 45 09 27a, Silverwood Close, Newmarket Road, Fallowfield, Fen Rd, Water St, Mowbray Rd – 45 10 04a; Cavendish Rd, Stourbridge Grove, Fulbourn Rd, Bradmore St, Petersfield, Gwydir St, Newnham Croft, Scotland Rd, Scotland Close – 45 10 08; Suez Rd, Hale Ave, Harvey Goodwin Ave, Glebe Rd, Radegund Rd, Golding Rd – 45 10 10; Selwyn Rd, Abbey Estate, De Freville Ave, Stanley Rd – 45 10 12a; Milton Rd, Thoday St – 45 10 18 / 113.114

1945 08 29

Life in Far East prison camps ..."cheerful under trying conditions" – first news of British prisoners – 45 08 29 / 113.112

1945 08 29

Cambridge woman killed by skidding army truck, East Road; daughters in pram unharmed – 45 08 29 / 113.112

1945 08 31

Released. — What is believed to be first news of one of the Cambridgeshire's released from captivity in the Far East reached us last night as we were going to press. The following cablegram, addressed to "Unwin, Seedsman, Histon." was received earlier in the evening; Philip, fit and well, Bangkok. Reply c/o Swiss Consulate. The cable was handed in at Bangkok on Monday, August 27th. Capt. W. P. Unwin, of the 2nd Batt, Cambridgeshire Regt., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Unwin, of Orchard House, Impington. He is married and has a little son of 34, whom he has never seen. "We are exceedingly lucky to hear so soon," said Mr. Unwin in response to a phone call last night. "I believe we were among the first to hear that Philip was a prisoner after the fall of Singapore. We have had three, cards in all from him. The last, received about Christmas time, was dated May, 1944." 45 08 31

1945 08 31

Repatriating Prisoners. Among British troops who will be helping in the repatriation of prisoners of war from the Far East is Capt. Albert Cox, R.A., whose home is at 158 Newmarket Road, Cambridge. He leaves shortly by air for the Far East, and is one of a number of British officers and men, who, having been engaged on work at transit camps in this country, will now use their experience in repatriating men from Japan. Well known before the war as a singer, Capt. Cox is a former member of the Mackenzie School of Music. 45 08 31 CIPof

1945 08 31

Volunteer Car Pool provided cars and drivers for the sick and those engaged on work of national service for whom no alternative means of transport, Cambridge drivers in their 70's have done over 40,000 miles – 45 08 31a

## **1945 September**

1945 09 07

The story of the Cambridge air raids. Censorship relaxed, what could not be previously told – Vicarage Terrace, Dornier bomber, Spy shot in shelter, mention of factories opened in Cambridge since war nor Falcon Club for War Workers; compulsory billeting of war workers had also been banned – 45 09 07 & a / 113.40, 113.41

1945 09 10

'Behind the scenes with the railway, problems of the Blitz, Cambridge's special efforts at train control room – details – 45 09 10

1945 09 11 c

Cambridge 'air raid; damage. A.R.P. services at work. C.D.N. offices involved. Undergraduate bombers – 113.43

1945 09 14

More about Cambridge air raids; some remarkable escapes; bombs which failed to explode – a large book in Guildhall might be placed in Library, the official record of enemy air activity; incendiary on roof of Rock Road library; incidents in county – 45 09 14a, 14b / 113.42, a,,b

1945 09 15

Falcon Club for War Workers were set up for women, now open doors to civilians – 45 09 15

1945 09 17

First news of Cambs in battle at Singapore – 45 09 17a, 45 09 17c

1945 09 17

War-time story of the Fitzwilliam Museum; most important works of art sent to private house in Wales and bank in Cornwell, fire watching, stored blankets for Red Cross. RAF wanted a large room to install apparatus to give illusion of pilots flying – but would have caused problems; items returned after VE-Day – 45 09 17b / 113.115 & a

1945 09 22

First pictures of released prisoners of war, Ronald Searle announces safety with cartoon – 45 09 22a, b / 113.113 & a

1945 09 25

First two Jap prisoners arrive – James Craft of Holbroke Rd & Maurice Foreman, Burleigh St – CDN 45 09 25

1945 09 28

Orders for victory handbells, made from scrap metal from shot down German aircraft, are flowing in thick and fast at the Cambridge Gas Company's showroom, Mr. Stanley Miller, the hon. organiser, tells us. The bells, which are being sold in aid of the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, are seven inches high and are made at labour cost by a Kentish firm. Some of them have been photographed by Battle or Britain pilots. One of them, personally cast by Group Capt. Douglas Bader, the famous legless flyer, will be sold at Cambridge in the near future to the highest bidder. So far over 70.000 bells have been

sold in Britain alone. America has bought 20,000 of them. The metal for the bells comes from a scrap dump at Biggin Hill and was given by the Ministry of Aircraft Production. 45 09 28 CIPof

## **1945 October**

1945 10 06

Ronald Searle cheery cartoon from the Far East – 45 10 06; dines with Lord Mountbatten – 45 10 06a

1945 10 08

First batch of repatriated prisoners from Far East arrive home – 45 10 08a

1945 10 08

How the Post Office beat the 'Blitz' – 'fixed bayonets' at G.P.O., Americans and phone boxes – 45 10 08b

1945 10 09

The great reunion, ex-prisoners arrive at station – 45 10 09

1945 10 12

Last US bomber over Europe – instrument panel presented at Guildhall – 45 10 12 / 113.109

1945 10 15

Cambridgeshires still arriving, how things are worked, causes of the delay – 45 10 15b

1945 10 23

Tank kills student at junction Newnham Rd & Queen's Road – 45 10 23; inquest – 45 10 25

## **1945 November**

Eastern Regional Food Office to close in November after 14 years. Opened at Corpus Christi College at beginning of war, moved to Brooklands Avenue - 53 08 29

1945 11 03

Honorary Degrees for Tedder, Alanbrooke etc – 45 11 03 TT

1945 11 12

Armistice day march – 45 11 12

1945 11 14

Soviet atomic discoveries by Peter Kapitza who worked Cavendish – 45 11 14

1945 11 27

Americans entertain voluntary helpers at Red Cross Services Club to mark closure of the Doughnut Dugout in Hobson St – 45 11 27

1945 11 29

War leaders Admiral Cunningham, Lord Portal RAF and US Ambassador receive Hon Degrees – 45 11 29 / 113.108

1945 11 30

Ronald Searle exhibition drawings from Japanese prison camp – 45 11 30b, 45 12 01. 45 12 04

## **1945 December**

1945 12 14

Police war reserves finishing – group photo – 45 12 14; their part in police history – 45 12 20

1945 12 21

Welcome home Far East prisoners, Christmas party at Guildhall – 45 12 21

1945 12 29

Kings College chapel windows to be restored soon; location kept secret for fear theft – 45 12 29

# **1946**

## **1946 January**

1946 01 02

Cambridge's big contribution to war was the housing of troops based here; War Office acquired empty houses for troops. This was better than billeting them in private houses. Then there were RAF personnel, official evacuees, unofficial evacuees, war workers with large families and civil servants said F.N. Drake Digby, quartering commandant – 46 01 02

1946 01 03

RAF Club at St Columba's Hall closes after six years – 46 01 03

1946 01 10

Last 'welcome home' party for returned prisoners at Dorothy Café – 46 01 10

1946 01 12

Anglo-American Hospitality Committee wound up' started in 1942 when known that more than 300,000 American airmen would be stationed in East Anglia. Leave hostel established in lecture room over St Andrew's Street Baptist church until the Bull Hotel opened on Nov 4th. By then an information centre – later club – had been opened at the English-Soaking Union at Matthew's Café. Hospitality arranged in colleges and private houses. August 1943 saw first reception at Guildhall to a regiment of Supply Troops; also Christmas Eve party in Guildhall which broadcast. Concentrated on US Hospital patients and staff of their hospitals. Garden party at Pembroke when Freedom of Cambridge to US Eighth Air Force. – 46 01 12

1946 01 17

Cambridgeshire Regiment drums found in Singapore by Red Cross lady, daughter of Fred Taylor of Dullingham. To be shipped back - 46 01 17



1946 01 26

Leys School back in Cambridge after five years in Highlands – 46 01 26

## **1946 February**

1946 02 16

Mounting stone on Backs was being used by RAF mechanics as an anvil; was moved to Fellow's Garden of King's and will be returned – 46 02 16a

1946 02 20

Coloured airmen in scuffle on Mill Road – 46 02 20

1946 02 27

Cambridgeshire Regiment 2nd Battalion in action, fighting in jungle & Singapore – talk – 46 02 27

## **1946 March**

1946 03 07

Folk Museum raises funds to accept Lord Fairhaven offer of Abbey House – 46 03 07

1943 03 09

Cambridgeshire regiment drums returned – were discovered on picnic – 46 03 09; photo – 46 03 11

1946 03 13

Bull College closing. 140 students have left mark all over the University, members of various colleges during Michaelmas term but because of overcrowding this term moved to billets formerly occupied by War Office. Studied under barrack-room conditions. Played sports and one elected president Union Society – 46 03 13a

1946 03 19

Atom case trial; Sir Wallace Akers was appointed director to supervise nuclear research in Nov 1941. Work carried out by teams in various universities, one the Cavendish Laboratory. Dr Nunn May worked there and required to sign secrecy undertaking. Moved to Canada in 1942 – 46 03 19, 19a

1946 03 23

Vicarage Terrace bombing – experiences of CDN reporter who suspected of being German paratrooper as was wearing red and grey under his greatcoat – his pyjamas. Was not the first – the first bombs on mainland fell near Canterbury on May 9th; May 24th Middlesbrough was first industrial town – 46 03 23b

1946 03 26

Break-in at Milton Camp, gum, chocolate and confectionary stolen – 46 03 26

## **1946 April**

## **1946 May**

1946 05 02

Demolition of air raid shelters – photo – 46 05 02

## **1946 June**

## **1946 July**

## **1946 August**

1946 08 14

Rev J.N. Duckworth speaks on experiences Jap PoW – 46 08 14

## **1946 September**

1946 09 06

Squatters occupy Nissen huts in grounds of 247 Hills Road, a house formerly occupied by Army Lancers Regiment and the R.E.s which empty for a year; huts empty for two 46 09 05 Squatters at Army huts Trumpington Rd; 21 huts in camp, 7 claimed, the rest locked by Military Police who had no power to eject them. The soldiers who had been living in them had been billeted outside to make room for the garrison engineer and staff who would soon have to move out of requisitioned house next door – 46 09 06

1946 09 07

Squatters take RAF wooden dormitory huts Newmarket Road – 46 09 07

1946 09 09

Squatters occupy old 'ack ack' site Long Road, at 'Leighton' Trumpington Rd and Madingley Rd huts that NFS HQ; had been empty for a year and were to have been taken over by Ministry of Works for milk testing – 46 09 09

1946 09 10

Squatters 38 Lensfield Rd which requisitioned and used as extension of the YWCA hostel next door; photo of military policeman guarding wire-barricaded huts on Donkey Common, making sure ATS do not get any squatter neighbours – 46 09 10

1946 09 21

New allied cemetery Singapore unveiled – 46 09 21

1946 09 30

Cambridgeshire Regiment freedom – 46 09 30 & a-d

## **1946 October**

1946 10 11

Montgomery and Eisenhower awarded degrees; visit in March 1944 had been secret; in spring the Union Society buildings stood closed and empty. Armed entries stood at the doors; vehicles stole through streets and halted at threshold; mysterious packages were carried within. They were putting final touches to plans – 46 10 11, 11a / 113.44

1946 10 19

If an aircraft brought to Marshalls and found to be unusable it was certified to be broken up; certain parts had to be salvaged if in order, if not a hammer put through them and put on salvage dump; one workman had taken clock from Dakota; during war he had won B.E.M. for putting out fire in main hangar – 46 10 19

## **1947**

1947 05 05

A series of questions on the demolition of air raid shelters was answered by the Town Clerk at the Cambridge Borough Council meeting. He said the number of underground and surface air raid shelters remaining to be demolished was 42. The number of shelters already demolished was 175 12-person units and 44 20-person units and 44 50-person units and a single trench for 300 people. The work on the shelters should be completed in about eight weeks. Other Civil Defence structures waiting demolition were 18 wardens posts, 23 50-person school surface shelters, 95 48-person underground school shelters and 26 static water tanks - 47 05 05

1947 06 11

As an emergency measure the Public Health Committee of Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed that the Infectious Diseases Hospital be made available for any initial cases for which observation in hospital might be necessary, until the smallpox hospital at Oakington could be opened. Following further negotiations the National Fire Service is now prepared to allow the Council to retain the static water tank on the Romsey Recreation Ground (it has been proposed that it shall be used as a children's paddling pool), and to pay the Council £107.8s.10d, the revised estimate of the cost of demolition and reinstatement of the site - 47 06 11

1947 09 08

One of the good things which had come out of the war, was the way in which Mr Leslie Symonds (Borough M.P.) described the Falcon Club when he was opening their annual fete on Saturday. The Club was now open to any man or woman over the age of 18 who was making some contribution to the welfare of this country. It was started during the war particularly for the benefit of transferred war workers, but since then the whole basis of the organisation had been extended and now is very definitely a club for everyone - perhaps not everyone, because it is obvious that spivs are not eligible for membership - 47 09 08

1947 12 17

Arranged by the Board of Extra Mural Studies the first of a series of lectures was given by the Mayor in the Guildhall. In a new venture organised to give German prisoners of war a wide, varied and accurate picture of English community life in Cambridge. Twentyfive representative English speaking PoWs from Trumpington camp attended the meeting. The lectures will include talks on the working conditions of a factory and on the administration of the Post Office 47 12 17

## **1948**

1948 04 10

The last production of what is known as the German Youth Stage at Trumpington P.O.W. camp before they go home in June will be given at the Houghton Hall. It will be a performance of the classical comedy "Der Zerbrochene Krug". Not only will it be acted outside the camp, but amongst the cast of 12 will be four British girls. The play will be acted in German but an introduction in English is provided. The performance will be open, without charge, to anyone who may be interested - 48 04 10

1948 07 12

Sir - Last week the last German Prisoners of War left this district on their journey home. During their stay in local camps they have received many kindnesses from corporate bodies, religious groups and men and women in this town. This has been deeply appreciated by the men, and as a former welfare visitor to the camps. I should like to help those who have helped in any way both before and after the fraternisation restrictions were lifted eighteen months ago - Mervyn Parry, Society of Friends, Jesus Lane - 48 07 12

## **1950s**

1950 04 15

Vivid impressions of life in a Japanese prison of war camp are to be seen in a remarkable series of pictures to be seen on view at Mitcham's store, Cambridge. The work of Charles Thrall, the pictures were painted on the spot with human hair, jungle roots, clay, crushed pencils, blood, boiled book covers & brass polish on tissue paper, wrapping paper and Jap field cards - 50 04 14

1951 11 02

From the hall of the Y.M.C.A. at Alexandra Street, Cambridge a distinguished company launched an appeal for funds. The speaker said that the lonely searchlight batteries during the war were visited by the Y.M.C.A. vans three times a week. They brought the little things the soldiers liked, tea, buns, cigarettes and papers. And the ladies of the 'Y.M.' took back letters for the troops and even wrote them for soldiers who were illiterate. The Cambridge building was completed in 1871 and had a moral affect on the thousands of young people who have been through the rooms and shared the facilities c51 11 02

1952 10 08

Former members of the RAF Motor Transport Unit travelled to Cambridge to dine at the Lion Hotel and talk of their wartime Cambridge billet – King's College. They specialised in large-scale Service "removals", such as shifting an entire service from one place to another. Early one morning a fleet of 32-seater coaches left the Backs in the company of a self-contained mobile feeding lorry and sped to a smouldering Coventry where emergency meals were prepared and served to the homeless. Thereafter the coaches helped provide a public transport service for them c52 10 08

1953 09 04

During the War British scientists worked on a secret project for destroying the enemy crops by means of chemicals dropped from aircraft. The method was never used but the discoveries made by the research workers at a “hush hush” plot in East Anglia have since made possible one of the selective weed-killers which destroy the weeds and leave the crops unharmed. In Cambridge dinitro compounds were used to kill some weeds and out of a very nasty idea meant for our enemies came another project – plant hormones, the director of Pest Control told Cambridge businessmen. c53 09 04

1954 04 21

During the early years of the war, when the Government was encouraging people to spend their holidays at home the Cambridge Entertainments Committee organised August Bank Holiday athletic sports meeting, swimming sports, baby shows and other attractions. They obtained permission to open the Corn Exchange as a canteen for troops stationed in the area; later alterations were made, music and games provided and it became a social centre for thousands of Servicemen and women, a very useful contribution in the dark days of war. It could still, in the hands of an imaginative architect, become the much-needed concert hall Cambridge needed – 54 04 21

1955 11 02

A roll of honour compiled in memory of the citizens of Cambridge who lost their lives in the last war will be unveiled in the Guildhall. It is written on two skins of vellum with raised gold lettering and also commemorates the Women’s Forces and all the civilian casualties. It was executed by Miss G. Horsley, a designer at the Technical College and School and is a poignant reminder of how modern wars have involved the very homes of the people. The first name is a woman’s and the names of children killed in one of the air raids also appear. 55 11 02c

1956 02 14

Cambridgeshire regiment history and future – 56 02 14 & a

1956 02 28

Cambridgeshire regiment history – Japs – 56 02 28 & a

1958 01 25

Crashed aircraft in Cambridge WWII – Bowyer – 58 01 25 & a

1958 11 08

The Ministry of Fuel and Power which administered fuel rationing during the war has moved its regional headquarters from Brooklands Avenue to London (in 1958). At first there were two offices: the petroleum office in Chaucer Road and a general office which started at Corpus Christi college and late removed to Trinity dealing with coal, gas and electricity. At its peak 300 people were employed but now a very small staff will remain to ensure that gas and electricity meters are working efficiently 58 11 08c

1959 03 20

Jeanty Raven, the wife of Professor Raven of Christ’s College, could tell the most horrifying tales of the war. She was then the wife of a prosperous Brussels barrister who was imprisoned by the Germans when an escaped British pilot was found hiding in their house. The penalty for this was death but under German law no man could be condemned if his wife was insane. So she assumed the character of a simple-minded girl of twelve and lived in a house along with anything up to a hundred insane people. As a result her husband was sentenced to life imprisonment, only to be murdered along with hundreds of fellow prisoners just before the war ended. 59 03 20

1959 11 10

Not many people know that on the wall of St Paul's Church, Stockingford, near Nuneaton, there is a memorial to members of the Cambridgeshire Regiment who died in the Far East in the Second World War. But the Regiment's Old Comrades Association never lets Armistice Sunday pass without remembering former comrades who were based there before embarking for overseas. The plaque is in proud memory of the 343 officers and men of the 1st Battalion who gave their lives in Singapore. The Battalion was stationed in Arbury Park from May to August 1941 and worshipped in the church 59 11 10

1959 12 17

There are a quarter of an acre of tunnels under Peas Hill which were used as air raid shelters during the War. They were wired for electricity, lavatories were installed and wooden seats fitted in the tunnel recesses. Oil lamps were kept close at hand in case of emergency. Quite a number of people used the shelter during day-time raids and some slept down there when there was night bombing. 'Roadsters' used them every night to sleep. They were terribly damp when first used but after a few days became quite comfortable. 59 12 17

## **1960s**

1960 04 27

Constant Babington Smith analysed aerial photos during WWII - 60 04 27

1960 06 04

An air raid shelter erected at the beginning of the war in the garden of 44 Chalmers Road, Cambridge, was never used because it was thought to be too shaky. Mr P.C. Grimwood, who constructed it, used a wonderful variety of iron work to strengthen it including a fender, a quantity of large keys, a sewing machine, part of a bedstead and wire netting. After the war it was left because the cost of demolition was prohibitive. Now it has finally been removed after three days hard drilling with two pneumatic drills, leaving 20 tons of rubble. Workmen say it was well-built and only a direct hit in the doorway would have destroyed it. 60 06 04

1965 04 19

Yasume club for Japanese prisoners of war opened in 1949 – feature – 65 04 19a

## **1970s**

## **1980s**

1981 05 14

Wartime correspondence between the Home Office and the man who would have run Cambridge in the event of a major disaster has been unearthed in the Public Record Office. Mr F.R. Scott would have assumed total control of the eastern counties and his letters give details of damage to Cherry Hinton Hall and private houses, including a small fire caused by an oil incendiary bomb falling on a house in Tenison Avenue. They were sent from St Regis, Montague Road, which served as the region's civil defence headquarters until 1945. Later Cambridge was again chosen as a regional seat of government in 1959 to cope with the aftermath of a nuclear attack - 81 05 14b

1982 01 05

Secret wartime experiments involving the production of deadly anthrax serum were conducted at the Institute of Animal Pathology on Milton Road. Now doubts remain about the safety of a piece of land where the carcasses of 12 horses were buried. Details have emerged as the university has applied for planning permission for housing on land close to the Dunn Nutritional Laboratory. The risk of infection is minimal and they plan to cover the immediate area with a concrete slab. 82 01 05 & 05a

1982 02 06

A second burial site thought to contain anthrax-infected carcasses is a stone's throw away from a school for severely-handicapped children says a man who worked at the Milton Road Institute of Animal Pathology during the war. He remembers tight securing precautions after heifers from Newmarket were found to have the disease and buried by council workmen 82 02 06

1984 04 27

The No.1 First Eastern General Hospital was formed from local people just before war was declared in 1939. The commanding officer was a Cambridge doctor who became Col C.H. Budd, the matron was Miss A.M. Woolerton. Their headquarters was a large house on Parkside, the parade ground was Parkers Piece and their first posting was Kimbolton Castle. 84 04 27 p25

1985 05 21

Eric Curwain broadcast news of German invasion of Poland – 85 05 21a

1985 06 01

Cambridge radio amateurs worked as wartime spies monitoring enemy messages – 85 06 01, 85 06 28a

1987 08 21

Former airman, James Chainey, has unlocked the secrets of a 'signed' ceiling in the historic Eagle pub, Bene't Street on which American and British airmen wrote their names and squadron numbers in candle smoke. The ceiling is covered in nicotine and many of the numbers are almost illegible because of overwriting. Some relate to aspects of the war. 'Pressure Boys' refer to extreme weather conditions at the US base Seething, 'Wild Hares' were the B24 Liberator crews and 'Aphrodite' was a pilotless American aircraft loaded with explosives. 87 08 21

1989 09 28

LSE evacuated to Cambridge during war – feature – 89 09 28

## **1990s**

1990 09 13

University chemical labs were used for poisoned gas research during war; Scientists Anti-War Group – 90 09 13b

## **2000s**

2012 12 31

Milton Road, Hills Road and St Andrews Streets were designed to take heavy military vehicles; farmland was requisitioned in Milton Road and used to prepare vehicles and tanks for the D-Day landings. 2012 12 31 p9

## Addenda

During WWII hutments erected Brooklands Avenue for use American Red Cross as hostel American forces [446.9.8]

Chesterton House requisitioned by Civil Defence [446.10.6]

60 Grange Rd - Silbury - was convalescent home run British Red Cross 1941, next door US convalescent home [446.12.5]

Hallen's requisitioned for military production, Air Ministry contract for repairing motor cycles in east Anglia; by end of war had 100 employees [446.13.3]

Lycee Francaise, London, evacuated to Cambridge [446.13.5]

Anthrax horses buried after wartime experiments [446.15.1]

Marshall's trained RAF pilots WWII [446.15.3]

Pye Ltd changed 210 ft aerial mast put up at start war to help develop defence systems [446.17.1]

During war Cyril Ridgeons work connected with orders for packing cases & crates [446.17.3]

Cambridge Instrument Co became controlled establishment & made some items wartime use such as degaussing system on ships [7.2]

Dunn Nutritional Labs worked on standardisation of wholemeal bread with vitamins B1, vitamins A & D to prevent night blindness & rickets made available in form cod-liver oil; margarine was compulsorily vitaminised, concern loss of vitamins through cooking [369.43.4]

*There have been numerous books published about Cambridge during the Second World War.*

*Two of the most important, with information that supplements these snippets are*

*'Air Raid! The enemy air offensive against East Anglia 1939-1945' by Michael J.F. Bowyer. Patrick Stephens. 1986. ISBN 0-85059-685-8*

*'Cambridge at war: the diary of Jack Overhill 1939-1945, edited by Peter Searby. Cambridgeshire Records Society. 2010 ISBN 978-0-904323-221-1*